



REFERENDUM: Iraqi soldiers stand on a car decorated with a poster of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and an Iraqi flag during a demonstration in Baghdad in support of the Iraqi leader ahead of Sunday's referendum (see page one) (AFP photo)

Maid 'cried with joy' for reprieve from execution

DUBAI (AFP) — Filipina maid Sarah Balaban "cried for joy" after the family of the man she killed dropped its demand for her execution, a diplomat said Sunday.

"She was very happy. Tears rolled down her face," the Philippine embassy's assistant labour attaché, Carmelita Arriola, told AFP after breaking the news on Saturday to Balaban at her prison in the city of Al Ain.

The young maid was condemned to death last month when a United Arab Emirates (UAE) court convicted her of the premeditated murder of her UAE employer

Mohammad Abdullah Al Baloushi, rejecting her claim that he had raped her.

But the Baloushi family told the Islamic court in Al Ain on Saturday that they had "relinquished their right to demand" her execution following UAE President Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan's "private endeavours," the court said.

Such efforts are customary when Islamic courts hand down death penalties, it added. But the courts, which are due to hold a hearing on Oct. 30, could still impose a jail sentence on Ms. Balaban.

The death sentence had sparked protests in the Philippines, already angry over the March hanging in Singapore of another maid, Flor Contemplacion, for a double murder. France also protested over Ms. Balaban's sentence.

But the court said the development was "due entirely to events within the due judicial process of the UAE."

"I just told the court I don't want the death sentence," Baloushi's 24-year-old son Faraj told AFP. "Sure it was a difficult decision but what can I do."

He said he told the appeals court he would accept 150,000 dirhams (\$40,000) in compensation for his 85-year-old father's death in July last year.

Philippine ambassador to the UAE Roy Seneser thanked Sheikh Zayed "for his kindness and compassion in prevailing upon" the Baloushis to drop their demand.

Mr. Seneser had pushed for Ms. Balaban's acquittal, supporting her argument that she acted in self-defence when she stabbed Baloushi 34 times with the knife he used to rape her.

Meanwhile Philippine diplomats and Ms. Balaban's parents Karim and Bai, who arrived in the UAE last week to attend appeals proceedings, were due to visit the Baloushi home and thank them on Sunday, the diplomats said.

"They're most welcome," Faraj Baloushi said, adding he liked the Balaban family

Triumphant Leader Museum in Baghdad displays rare weapons

BAGHDAD (AFP) — On the eve of a referendum to hand him seven more years in power, Saddam Hussein inaugurated a huge museum dedicated to his life and stuffed with gold and gem-encrusted weapons from around the world.

The Iraqi leader on Saturday proudly strolled through the three-story Triumphant Leader Museum, even though it is still not open to the public.

The building constructed after the 1991 Gulf war has an amazing display of everything from humble earthenware plates from an anonymous Zambian to gold swords from Gulf emirs and a well-worn rifle handed to the "great leader" by an Iraqi soldier on the Iranian front.

"Everything the president has received is here, because he wants to show that it belongs to the people and not to him," said director Walid Khaleel Hamadi.

Everything, that is, apart from a stuffed bear offered by an American in 1994 which the director keeps in his office.

There is one weapons gallery containing more than 100 pistols and revolvers, 30 hunting rifles, sub-machine guns, assault rifles and even a miniature rocket-propelled grenade

launcher.

Once of the most recent pieces on show is an Asprey P228 pistol whose moving parts are in gold.

In other parts of the gallery there are rusty old guns from Yemen encrusted with precious stones, and antique Enfield rifles alongside modern U.S. firearms including a gold-plated Colt shotgun given by an "Iraqi citizen."

In the centre of the exhibition hall stand three large calibre gold-plated shells donated by the Iraqi military industrialisation organisation to celebrate the end of the 1980-1988 war against Iran.

President Saddam has used many of the weapons, according to an official guide without saying what he had been aiming at.

Further on are more than 100 swords and daggers glittering with gold and precious stones.

Among them is a silver sword given to President Saddam when he was deputy leader of Iraq in 1974 by then French prime minister, now President Jacques Chirac.

Pieces of gold, silver, crystal, paintings, medals, decorations and ornaments of all shapes and sizes and from all over the world can be found in the museum's six other galleries.

Facts and figures on Iraq

Associated France Presse

ALMOST 19 million people live in Iraq, which on Sunday held its first presidential referendum to approve Saddam Hussein as leader for another seven-year term.

Some 4.5 million people live in Baghdad, while the country also has three million Kurds residing mainly in the three autonomous provinces of Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. All three provinces have been excluded from the elections in which 7.5 million people are eligible to vote.

The state religion in Iraq is Islam, with about 55 per cent of the population being Shiite Muslims. There are also about a million Christians.

The Iraqi parliament or national assembly is composed of 250 members elected by popular vote.

Oil is the country's main resource, but since its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 it has been subjected to an oil and trade embargo by

the United Nations Security Council.

A member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Iraq's proven reserves are estimated at 112 billion barrels while its gas reserves have been put at 7.5 trillion cubic metres.

Before the 1991 Gulf war, when a U.S.-led coalition drove Iraqi troops out of neighbouring Kuwait, Iraq had a production capacity of 3.25 million barrels per day (b/d).

Western experts have put the country's military debt at more than \$100 billion, plus \$150 billion demanded by the U.N. to compensate victims of Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

Iraq has also called for \$100 billion in damages for the bitter 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

Before the Gulf conflict Iraq was the strongest military force in the Arab World. Today its army includes 382,000 troops and 650,000 reservists, according to the annual report by the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies.

Its land forces alone account for 350,000 men, including 100,000 reservists, seven divisions of the elite Republican Guard and 19 mechanised infantry divisions.

Iraq also has 2,700 tanks, 900 light-armoured combat vehicles, 1,500 reconnaissance armoured vehicles, 2,000 armoured troop transporters, 1,500 pieces of heavy artillery and 500 helicopters, including 120 equipped with weapons and some with Exocet air-to-surface missiles.

The navy has 2,500 personnel, with one frigate, seven patrol ships and four minesweepers.

For its part, the air force has 30,000 men with six bombers, 130 ground attack planes and 180 fighters.

There is also an important paramilitary force of 20,000 border guards and 4,800 security troops.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russian defence minister to visit Iran

TEHRAN (R) — Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev plans to visit Iran in the near future, Iran's ambassador to Russia was quoted on Saturday as saying. Etelaat newspaper reported Mr. Grachev conveyed his intention to Iranian Ambassador Mehdi Safar in a meeting in Moscow on Thursday. Iranian and Russian officials were not available for comment. Mr. Grachev was quoted as saying Russia wanted to continue cooperation with Iran. "Russia will allow no country to decide partners for Russia," the minister was quoted as saying in an apparent reference to the United States. In recent weeks, Russia has had to defend its two contracts to build three reactors at Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant against criticism from the U.S. and others who argue Tehran might use the technology to build a nuclear arsenal.

UAE sends \$11m in aid to Bosnia

DUBAI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has sent an additional \$40 million dirhams (almost \$11 million) in humanitarian aid to war-torn Bosnia, newspapers said Sunday. The money collected from individuals and humanitarian associations was the second batch of aid sent to Bosnian Muslims since a fundraising campaign in July netted \$44 million in the UAE.

UAE adopts death penalty for drug smugglers

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan on Saturday approved a law enforcing the death penalty for drug-traffickers, the official news agency WAM reported. Sheikh Zayed endorsed the law which also included intensified prison terms of up to seven years for drug abusers. The federal cabinet introduced capital punishment for drug smuggling earlier this year after a surge in trafficking operations. Police records showed more than eight tonnes of hashish, heroin, cocaine and other drugs had been seized over the past three years. Most of them originated from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran. Last week, the UAE created a high-level committee to combat drugs, grouping the deputy prime minister and intelligence officials along with the ministries of interior, education, information, and Islamic affairs.

4 children die trying to save pigeon

ALGIERS (AFP) — Four children aged between seven and nine were killed as they tried to save an injured pigeon sheltering in a dried out well, the official Algerian news agency APS reported Saturday. The children died Thursday in a well near Ghardaia, southern Algeria, the agency said. APS added one child, aged seven, and three others aged nine, climbed down into the well to rescue an injured pigeon. The side of the well collapsed as they were attempting to climb out, burying them under piles of earth, the agency said. The agency reported that hundreds of wells dug in the area to gather ground water have been abandoned after either drying up or becoming polluted.

Indian premier begins visit to Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao arrived on Sunday in Egypt for a 24-hour visit during which he will meet President Hosni Mubarak and sign a treaty on fighting terrorism, airport officials said. Mr. Rao was met at the airport by his Egyptian counterpart Aref Sedki, who he was to join in talks before meeting daily Al Ahram in an interview published on Sunday he would also sign accords on increasing scientific and media cooperation between the two countries. Mr. Rao said his talks with Egyptian officials would also deal with "how to benefit from economic reform programmes" in both nations, calling for "increased economic cooperation between India and Egypt." The Indian premier and his delegation, which includes Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee, will leave for the Colombian city of Cartagena Monday to attend the 11th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Israeli singers welcome in Yemen — Iryani

TEL AVIV (R) — Yemen Foreign Affairs Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani said in an interview published on Sunday that Israeli artists of Yemenite descent would be welcome in his country. Dr. Iryani told Israel's Maariv newspaper he would try to organise a trip to Yemen for Israeli entertainers Ofra Haza and Shoshana Damari, who are of Yemenite extraction, despite a lack of diplomatic relations between Israel and Yemen. "The Jews of Yemenite descent are our good network in Israel and the United States," the minister told Maariv in an interview conducted in the United States. "We permit freedom of movement for all Jews who remain in Yemen ... but full peace and direct trade will take place only within a comprehensive framework of peace with the Arab World that will include Syria," he said.

Iranian steward charged with hijacking

BEFRSHEBA (AFP) — An Iranian air steward who asked for asylum after forcing a plane to land in Israel was charged with hijacking on Sunday, legal sources said. A court in the southern town of Beersheba ordered Jabari Rizah, 30, to be remanded in custody until his trial, in Israel or the United States, has said he wants to convert to Judaism and marry a Jewish girl, since hijacking an Iranian Boeing 707 with more than 170 people on board on Sept. 19. The steward fired a bullet into the cockpit of a domestic Iranian flight heading to the Gulf holiday island of Kish and ordered it to head west, according to Israeli officials. The Israeli authorities authorised the plane and passengers to return to Tehran after it landed in the south of the country. Iran, which has accused Israel of involvement in the hijacking, wants his extradition and has appealed to the International Civil Aviation Organisation for help.

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Vienna - Amman	Mon, Sat	Dep.	Arr.
		10:10	15:00

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JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Shelley Duval's Bedtime Stories

14:30 ... Hay Day

15:00 ... Nature World of Mitsuki

16:00 ... I Love Lucy

17:00 Children's programme - Cocotte Minute

17:30 Serie - Los Aventureros De Rio Verde

19:00 ... News in French

19:15 ... Magazine - Minibus

19:30 ... News Headlines

19:35 ... Camp Wildcat

20:00 ... Women Eat Last

20:25 The Bold and the Beautiful

21:10 ... Harts of the West

22:00 ... News in English

22:25 ... Inspector Morse

23:59 ... American Chart Show

PRAYER TIMES

04:18 ... Fajr

05:23 ... (Sunrise) Dhuhr

11:21 ... Asr

14:36 ... Maghreb

18:25 ... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth. Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 628286

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 625256.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 678591.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Unstable weather conditions are expected to prevail, thus skies will be partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers and winds southeasterly light to moderate. In Agiba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./Max. temp. 13/26

Agiba 18 / 30

Deers 11 / 29

Jordan Valley 17 / 31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Agiba 29 Humidity readings: Amman 36 per cent, Agiba 33 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hisham Kan'an 649028

Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 649028

Dr. Usamah Hussini 847289

Dr. Issam Al Asmar 890504

Fires pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 783536

Al Asana pharmacy 637055

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637640

Nairokh pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IBRID:

Dr. Ali Al Omari 272032

Alquds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Khalid Jabir 984549

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 877111

Telephone Information 121

Oreana Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussien Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mallus, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 637071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 66727/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/77

Al-Abli, Abdali 666164/6

Italian, Al-Mahajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Asrafieh 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/30

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Center for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital 10998332

Zarqa National Hospital 10998332

Ibn Sina Hospital 10998332

Al Hikma Modern Hospital 10999990

IBRID:

Princess Basma Hospital 102127555

Greek Catholic Hospital 102127225

Ibn Al Nafies Hospital 102137700

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital 103134111

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07:30 ... Sanas (RJ)

08:00 ... Damascus (RJ)

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09:00 ... New Delhi (RJ)

09:10 ... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

09:15 ... Agiba (RJ)

09:30 ... Beirut (RJ)

10:10 ... Cairo (RJ)

10:15 ... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

22:40 ... Bangkok, Jakarta (RJ)

22:45 ... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:50 ... Khartoum (SD)

12:40 ... Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)

13:30 ... Kiev (SU)

18:45 ... Paris, Damascus (AF)

19:30 ... Cairo (MS)

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HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday

Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Amman 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700 / 500

Banana 600 / 400

Banana (Mukammal) 620

Cabbage 310 / 150

Carcass 350 / 250

Cauliflower 350 / 250

Cucumber (large) 400 / 300

Cucumber (small) 400 / 300

Eggplant 200 / 100

Garlic 750 / 600

Grape 650 / 500

Lemon 230 / 150

Marrow (large) 180 / 100

Marrow (small) 300 / 200

Okra 900 / 700

Olives (green) 350 / 250

Onion (dry) 300 / 200

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Tomato 100 / 50

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House mourns death of former Deputy Salman Qudah

AMMAN (Petra) — The speaker and members of the Lower House of Parliament Sunday mourned the death of former Deputy member Salman Mohammad Qudah, who passed away on Sunday.

Mr. Qudah, who was born in Ain Janna, Ajloun, served as a member of the Lower House in three different terms in 1950, 1963 and 1967.

He was also a member of the National Consultative Council in 1978.

Mr. Qudah assumed various government posts, including provincial governor and district governor in several cities.

He joined the Jordan Armed Forces, and became an officer in 1946 after graduating with a law degree from Damascus University.

Mr. Qudah was a member of a national committee



Salman M. Qudah

entrusted with preparing the country's five-year development plan of 1986-1990.

He also was a member of the Royal Commission charged with drafting the Jordanian Civil Code, and was an observer in the Palestinian National Council and a member of the Yarmouk University Board.

Study says Disi can yield 160-180 mcm of potable water for next 100 years

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A four-year study has determined that the Qa-Disi aquifer in the south can annually yield 160 million cubic metres (mcm) to 180 million mcm of potable water for Jordan for the next 100 years, plugging a major gap in the Kingdom's water needs.

The main focus of the finding was announced at a ceremony held at the Water Authority of Jordan (W.A.J.), where the final report of the study was formally presented to Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irshaidat by British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliff.

The British-financed study, conducted by Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick, a

British consultancy firm, also included a seven-point "action plan" outlining the steps to deliver up to 100 mcm of water to Jordan through a pipeline.

At present about 60 to 80 mcm of water from Qa-Disi are used annually in the south, mainly for agricultural purposes, and the projected quantity of 80 to 100 mcm to be pumped to Amman is above the present consumption, said Shami Puri, project manager of Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick.

As such, Mr. Puri explained, the total yield of the aquifer could be between 160 million and 180 mcm per year.

At present rates of consumption, that would mean about 20 per cent of Jordan's total water consumption and more than half of the Kingdom's strategic water resources "with great future potential," said the British offer to 1989 to finance the study came "at the right time."

"It is a very important project for Jordan, which is facing water problems," the minister said in brief comments at Moody's ceremony. The next step in exploiting the aquifer, he said, was laying a pipeline to Amman.

The Jordanian government intends to submit to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit the pipeline project, with options open for the private sector to invest in it either through "build, own and operate" or "build, own

and transfer" arrangements. The estimated total capital cost of the project is \$405 million, of which 70 per cent is being sought from external sources, according to a project summary made available to the Jordan Times.

A feasibility study on the pipeline project, being conducted by an American-British consortium, is expected to be ready by April 1996.

The Jordanian government financed the nearly \$1 million study.

Ambassador Hinchcliff told the gathering at the handing over of the Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick report that the British government hoped that the findings of the study will be an "important contributor to meeting

Jordan's water needs."

According to Mr. Puri, the project manager of the study, the assessment that the aquifer could yield between 160 million and 180 million cubic metres of water per year took into account the present 600 million-cubic-metre-per-year Saudi exploitation of the reservoir and the possibility of increases in Saudi use of the reservoir.

Qa-Disi water is described as the oldest fossil water on earth dating back to 35,000 years.

A study conducted by United Nations experts suggested last year that the water could be bottled and marketed as "God's own water" since no fossil reservoir older than Qa-Disi has been uncovered anywhere.

Judge agrees to postpone trial of 'Islamic Revivalists'

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The attorney for six people accused of sabotage asked the State Security Court Sunday to postpone their trial to allow them time to present a written statement contesting the court's jurisdiction over the case.

During a five-minute session Presiding Judge Hafez Amin read out the charge

sheet which included illegal possession and manufacturing of explosive materials for illicit use.

When Judge Amin asked the six defendants how they pleaded, attorney Kamal Nasser demanded to postpone the case.

Judge Amin conceded and set Oct. 30 as the new date to hear the defence.

According to the prosecutor general's charge sheet, the group, known as the

"Islamic Revivalists" which started gathering its members in 1990, was planning to carry out attacks against foreigners in Jordan using explosives and automatic weapons.

The group was apprehended before perpetrating any attack. The Central Intelligence were tipped off on March 10, 1995 about the group's activities.

Children fault authorities for 'inattention' to child abuse

By Lola Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of concerned children has criticised the government for what it sees as a lack of attention by officials to the issue of child abuse.

Khulud Juteim, the 15-year-old chairperson of a one-day workshop on "Violence Against Children," compared statistics from the 1985 to 1989 against 1990 to 1994 on the rate of reported incidents of domestic violence taken from the Criminal Investigation Statistical Department.

What she found was that the cases had more than doubled. The comparison between both periods showed an increase from 210 cases to 477 cases.

Equally, if not more alarming, Khulud said the figures also showed that 50 per cent of the children were killed as a result of domestic violence, and the rest were sexually abused or were the victims of attempted murder.

Lawyer Sawwan Ishaq, representing the Jordanian Woman's Union (JWU) at the workshop, supported the children's arguments and said that Jordanian laws designed to protect children are not enforced.

"For example, the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Jordan signed and therefore is obligated to enforce, is not implemented

because two of its articles talk about abortion and adoption, which are practices opposed by Islamists," she said.

Children, who participating in the workshop alongside officials, told experts from the Ministry of Education and the Public Security Department, as well as lawyers that they were doing a poor job in preventing child abuse.

An 11-year-old boy described to police officer Hussein Arabiyat incidents in which police physically abused children.

The participant said that in order to stop a fist fight, at the King Abdullah Gardens, which he himself had witnessed, police officers repeatedly slapped a young boy, without granting him the chance to explain.

In another case, he added, police officers did not intervene to stop a fist fight. Instead, he said, the officers started encouraging the fight by cheering them on.

Many of the children inquired about laws that prevent, or curtail, domestic violence.

In reply, Ms. Ishaq said the law includes an article that gives the family the right to discipline their children, while police can only intervene if the abuse results in the child being hospitalised.

Even in these cases, she added, children are too afraid of their families to tell authorities the truth.

One solution to the problem, she said, was that child-rearers should have access to centres specialised in dealing with abuse, where professional advice can be obtained.

Unfortunately, these centres are not available in Jordan, she said.

"If abuse against a child continues within his/her family circle the child should be placed with foster families."

At present the only options for shelter for victims of abuse are orphanages, Ms. Ishaq said.

Ahmad, a 12-year-old, revealed a ten-centimetre scar on his elbow.

He explained that his father, clinically diagnosed as mentally handicapped, had pushed him towards a window, and that the broken glass penetrated his flesh deeply enough to expose the bone.

It was not until the mother came home that the child was given medical attention.

Fear of being "butchered" kept Ahmad from telling officials the truth.

"The father spent some time in Fuhais Psychiatric Hospital, but was released because the hospital deemed him fit to return home. But I think he should go back (to the hospital) because he is a danger to his children," said Feryal Saleh, director of the Centre for Social Development, who read the father's medical report.

Psychiatrist Mohammed Khalaf said that violence is

a catalyst in developing different psychological disorders in children.

He said children exposed to violence become violent themselves.

Eleven-year-old Manal, Ahmad's eldest sister, still cannot read or write. She told the Jordan Times that whenever her father beats her with an iron chain, she goes to school and beats her schoolmates.

She has been expelled from several schools.

"Late at night, I think about why I hit them. I know they don't deserve it," she said.

Manal's counsellor for the past two years, who asked not to be identified, said the only way to save Manal is to put her in an orphanage, where her father can not reach her.

Children who are forced out into the streets to beg by their families are also suffering abuse.

Police officer Arabiyat said although this is the responsibility of the ministry of social development, police officers do cooperate with the ministry.

"Children are picked up from the streets and are sent to the ministry where their cases are studied, and depending on the situation, a monthly income is provided for the family," he said.

Families caught sending their children to beg on the streets are fined JD 2, the officer said.

If the child is repeatedly

picked up by the authorities, he or she might be taken from the family and placed in an orphanage, he added.

Mothers attending the workshop told the Jordan Times that although they believe that street and school violence should be dealt with, they did not consider corporal punishment as abuse, but rather as a form of "family guidance."

They said they were worried that an open discussion of this kind might create a rift between children and their families.

All 50 children who participated in the event conducted their own research on street, school and domestic violence.

They also studied the Jordanian law on the child's right and have met with peers who themselves have been victims of abuse.

At the end of the workshop the children presented their recommendations, which included:

—An awareness campaign to inform children of their rights, should be introduced in children's programmes on JTV and to be included in the school syllabus.

—Parents and police officers should be involved in seminars designed to explain the effect of violence on developing the child's personality.

—A compulsory course on child psychology for teachers.

Werner Bartschi to ponder and play

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the Embassy of Switzerland in Amman have invited a very special pianist to perform in Amman.

Werner Bartschi is an artist who is constantly questioning the concert approach, searching for ways to make it more spontaneous, communicative

and natural. Every aspect of the performance, whether technical or aesthetic is rethought.

A known musician, pedagogue and interpreter of a vast repertoire, Werner Bartschi is also a composer.

In addition to works by Anton Webern, Frederic Chopin, Sergei Prokofiev, Robert Schumann and Othmar Schoeck, he will play two of his own compositions: an Etude-Improvisation

and Fruhmorgens am Daubensee.

In 1983, Mr. Bartschi won the coveted, Freuch "Grand Prix" du Disque, awarded by the prestigious Academie Francaise, for his exceptional recordings.

The concert will take place at the Amman Baccalaureate School theatre, tonight at 8:00, and is a presentation of Pro Helvetia Arts Council of Switzerland.

News in Brief

Government asked to prepare 1996 staffing requirements

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday issued a circular asking all ministries and government departments to prepare a staffing needs list for 1996. The documents should include an organisational structure, job descriptions and justification for the additional staff requirements. The circular said the documents should be submitted to the secretaries general or department heads, as appropriate. The documents will be forwarded to task forces for discussion with heads of the respective administration units, and then forwarded to the Budget Department no later than end of June, 1996 for review by another task force.

UNESCO seeks to establish special regional office

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural

Organisation (UNESCO) representative in Jordan Abdul Qader Atrash Sunday discussed the possible establishment of a regional office within the UNESCO Amman office to handle cultural matters in the Arab region. According to UNESCO officials, Jordan and UNESCO will sign an agreement on establishing the new office in the next two months. The two officials also discussed Jordan's participation in the UNESCO general meeting in Paris due to start on Oct. 25. Also Sunday, Mr. Rawabdeh met with Dorrit Stahl, the new area director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to discuss the agency's projects in comprehensive education in the Arab World. Mr. Rawabdeh urged UNICEF to link its projects in Jordan with the country's own comprehensive educational schemes to improve the quality of life in the less fortunate areas. Mrs. Stahl said UNICEF is creating a regional task force on comprehensive education and requested that Jordan name its representative in this task force. Discussions also covered prospects of UNICEF providing assistance to Jordanian schools in rural regions, especially on transportation and health services for students.

PIANO RECITAL

* By Swiss pianist Werner Bartschi at the Amman Baccalaureate School Theatre at 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

* "Tout Ça... Pour Ça," at the French Cultural Centre, at 8:00 p.m.

* Polish film, "Love in Germany," at the Phoenix Gallery, at 7:30 p.m.

DIALOGUE

* Dialogue on Yemeni music with Dr. Nizar Ghanem at the Phoenix Gallery, at 6:30 p.m.

LECTURE

* "Golding's Lord of the Flies," at the British Council, by Dr. Nicholas Linfield at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings by Janet Venn-Brown at Alia Art Gallery.

* Works by Luis Azcarate at Instituto Cervantes, Jabbal Amman.

* A Retrospective Exhibition of Sculptures and Drawings (1965-1995) by Mona Saudi at Darat Al Funun.

* Graphic design by Iraqi artist Kazem Shamshoud at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Utheina.

* Painting and sculpture by Rafiq Lahham and Laith Al Turk at the Italian Language Centre Gallery, Shmeisani.

* Selected works by the young and the established at The Gallery, Hotel Inter-Continental.

* Works by Lamia Abdel Sahib and Samer Ousama entitled "Aux Sources Orientales de la Fontaine," at the French Cultural Centre.

French fables from an oriental past painted by oriental artists of today

By Beatrix Immenkamp
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An exhibition of illustrations of fables of the French writer La Fontaine in memory of the 300th anniversary of his death is drawing to a close at the French Cultural Centre in Amman.

The aim of the exhibition on "The Oriental Sources of La Fontaine" and the accompanying book is to show the extent to which La Fontaine relied on inspiration from oriental culture, according to the organisers.

The author of poems, songs, drama pieces, stories, opera librettos and a novel, who is considered one of the greatest French writers of the 17th century, is best remembered today for his fables, vignettes of morale and social satire in which animals speak and act like human beings.

The latter half of La Fontaine's 240 fables were inspired by "oriental sources", in particular the book of Kalila and Dimna, also known as the Book of Animals, which was translated into Arabic from Indi-

an and Persian by Ibo Al Muqaffa around the 12th century.

The 19 paintings exhibited at the French Cultural Centre in Amman are the works of two Iraqi artists living in Jordan who were commissioned by the centre to illustrate some of La Fontaine's "fables of oriental origin".

Commenting on the origin of the book accompanying the exhibition, Gerard Martinez, director of the French Cultural Centre, told the Jordan Times: "work on La Fontaine's fables of oriental origin revealed the close resemblance of some of them to stories in Kalila and Dimna."

At that point, my wife Marie and I had the idea of publishing a book where La Fontaine's fables would appear alongside the original stories which inspired them."

The result is a large book, beautifully illustrated with the 19 paintings of Iraqi artists Lamia Abdel-Sahib and Samer Ousama, where La Fontaine's stories, in French, appear side by side the original stories in

Kalila and Dimna, printed in Arabic.

In the appendix, La Fontaine's stories are printed in Arabic and the stories from Kalila and Dimna appear in French, allowing French readers access to the stories from Kalila and Dimna and Arabic readers access to the stories of La Fontaine" Mr. Martinez adds.

The idea behind the book is to build a bridge between the two cultures, Arab and French, showing the extent to which one influenced the other.

According to Mr. Martinez, the book will also be distributed in France, where it will have the specific benefit of helping young people from North African countries living in France realize that their Arab culture is important to French culture, as well as making French youngsters understand that a famous French author was inspired by Arabic sources.

The exhibition, which will close on Tuesday, will travel to Beirut, Nantes (France), Cairo, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi and Doha over



The fish and the cormorant, by Lamia Abdel-Sahib

the next months. An exhibition of the works of Iraqi painter

Shaker Hassan Said will open at the French Cultural Centre on Wednesday.

MARKET PRICE
Apple 1.00
Banana 0.80
Orange 1.20
Lemon 1.50
Grape 2.00
Pineapple 1.80
Mango 1.50
Watermelon 3.00
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Ice cream 0.80
Soft drink 0.50
Alcohol 1.00
Tobacco 1.50
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Soap 0.20
Shampoo 0.50
Toilet paper 0.50
Paper plate 0.10
Paper cup 0.10
Paper bag 0.10
Paper napkin 0.10
Paper towel 0.10
Paper tissue 0.10
Paper handkerchief 0.10
Paper umbrella 0.50
Paper hat 0.50
Paper bag 0.50
Paper box 0.50
Paper envelope 0.10
Paper card 0.10
Paper letter 0.10
Paper postcard 0.10
Paper stamp 0.10
Paper coin 0.10
Paper banknote 0.10
Paper receipt 0.10
Paper invoice 0.10
Paper contract 0.10
Paper agreement 0.10
Paper declaration 0.10
Paper statement 0.10
Paper report 0.10
Paper document 0.10
Paper form 0.10
Paper certificate 0.10
Paper diploma 0.10
Paper degree 0.10
Paper license 0.10
Paper permit 0.10
Paper passport 0.10
Paper visa 0.10
Paper ticket 0.10
Paper receipt 0.10
Paper invoice 0.10
Paper contract 0.10
Paper agreement 0.10
Paper declaration 0.10
Paper statement 0.10
Paper report 0.10
Paper document 0.10
Paper form 0.10
Paper certificate 0.10
Paper diploma 0.10
Paper degree 0.10
Paper license 0.10
Paper permit 0.10
Paper passport 0.10
Paper visa 0.10
Paper ticket 0.10

Russian planes bomb Chechen villages after talks collapse

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian warplanes have bombed villages in south-eastern Chechnya killing 17 people, in what Chechen separatists said Sunday was a show of "cruelty" by the new Russian military commander, a week after a bomb attack which claimed his predecessor.

Chechen independence fighters quoted Sunday by Moscow Echo radio station said the raids carried out Saturday against the villages of Dargo and Belgotai had also left at least 23 people wounded.

Mikhail Udugov, spokesman for the self-proclaimed Chechen independent government, said eight warplanes and six Mi-24 helicopter gunships took part in the sequence of three raids on the villages which lie in an area which Russian troops have so far failed to conquer in their 10-month bid to crush Chechen separatism.

"According to a first available information, the raids left 17 dead and 23 wounded, including eight seriously hurt," Mr. Udugov told Moscow Echo.

Dargo is the stronghold of Chechen warlord Shamil Bassayev who gained world-wide notoriety for leading a bloody hostage-taking operation in the

Russian town of Budennovsk in June.

However Mr. Bassayev was not in Dargo Saturday. He was in Shali, a town about 30 kilometres south of Grozny, where he burst into a "round table" organised by a pro-Russian Chechen group, to call for reconciliation among Chechens.

In Moscow, the Defence Ministry refused to either confirm or deny the Chechnya raids, Interfax News Agency said.

In another incident related by Mr. Udugov, "four people — three women and a girl — were killed at a Russian checkpoint on the road out of Bamut" in western Chechnya when their car came under a hail of automatic fire.

However Interfax quoted him as saying: "The Chechen side has never renounced and will not give up on reconciliation."

A week ago, 28 people were killed in air raids on Roshni-Chu in western Chechnya but Moscow denied that Russian forces were responsible and said planes "from Azerbaijan" had attacked the town.

The difficult peace process begun in Chechnya as a result of the Budennovsk tragedy has run into deadlock after the suspen-

sion of talks on implementing a demilitarisation accord reached on July 1.

The talks were broken off early last week following the Oct. 6 bomb blast in Grozny in which the former commander of Russian forces in Chechnya, General Anatoly Romanov, was badly injured.

His successor General Anatoly Shkirko took over Thursday. Mr. Udugov said the raids on Dargo and Belgotai were Gen. Shkirko's way of "showing his cruelty" after the attack on Gen. Romanov.

"We don't believe Russian officers when they say they had nothing to do with these attacks. In fact, the Russian troops have not stopped their military actions and are supported by artillery and aviation," the Chechen spokesman said.

On Friday, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said he "would not veer from the path of peace" in Chechnya despite the attack on Gen. Romanov.

"The federal government will not veer from the path to peace laid down for a settlement of the Chechen question, even if (Chechen independence leader Dzhokhar) Dudayev is pushing us in other directions," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Meanwhile the head of a European mission monitoring Russia's war in break-away Chechnya Saturday condemned bombing strikes on a village he visited outside Grozny, calling them unjustifiable.

Sandor Meszaros, lead representative in the Chechen capital for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, said he was shocked by what he saw the previous day in Roshni-Chu, west of Grozny.

Despite repeated Russian denials of aerial attacks on the village last Sunday, Mr. Meszaros confirmed to journalists at a Grozny news conference that a bombing strike had occurred.

He saw dozens of destroyed or damaged houses, told of the reported deaths of 28 villagers, and said residents told him the Russians had attacked in eight assault planes, dropping bombs, firing from submachine guns and firing several dozen missiles.

"I do not know whether there were militants in the village or not, but such an action cannot be justified," Mr. Meszaros was quoted by the Interfax News Agency as saying.



Former Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi (right) meets with South African President Nelson Mandela in Pretoria (AFP photo)

Savimbi regrets his 1992 return to war

LUSAKA (Agencies) — Angolan former rebel leader Jonas Savimbi said here Sunday that he regretted plunging his country back into civil war in 1992, saying that if he had been committed to peace then as he was today, a resumption of hostilities could have been avoided.

At the end of a tour of southern Africa to promote his new image as a man of peace, Mr. Savimbi told a press conference that he no longer felt disappointed at not being elected president in 1992.

He said he was happy with the post he has been offered.

"I am not disappointed with the turn of events but what I regret deeply in my 37 years of fighting, is the fighting we began in 1992, because this could have been avoided had we exhibited the same political will as today," said the 61-year-old leader of the main opposition National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

He added: "The highest office in our country is to have peace, my troops and officers have all accepted that it is better we play a constructive role other than to have the post of president."

Mr. Savimbi shattered Angola's hopes for peace when he went back to a bush war after rejecting UNITA's loss in general and presidential elections in 1992 though they had been declared free and fair by the United Nations.

After the Lusaka protocol for peace signed here last November, he has been offered the second vice presidency of the country by his war-time rival President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, in a government of national unity to be set up in January.

UNITA will also have four cabinet and seven deputy ministerial posts. Mr. Savimbi has been visiting some southern African states to seek support for his commitment to peace and confidence in the Lusaka protocol which is running behind schedule at

almost all stages. He returned to his Bailundo headquarters of the central Angolan highlands saying he was a "very happy and satisfied" man and his tour had enriched his relations with southern African heads-of-government.

Mr. Savimbi Saturday called the presence of South African mercenaries on Angolan soil "an embarrassing problem" for President Nelson Mandela's government.

"The fact is that we Angolans don't need mercenaries in our country at this stage, and the South African government doesn't need them anywhere," Mr. Savimbi said in an interview with Associated Press Television after meeting Mr. Mandela.

A South African company, Executive Outcomes, has recruited former members of the apartheid-era armed forces who fought in bush wars in Angola, Namibia and Mozambique to train — critics say lead — combatants in Angola and Sierra Leone.

In Angola, the mercenaries are credited with tipping the balance in favour of President Dos Santos' army last year and forcing Mr. Savimbi to sign a new peace accord.

Mr. Savimbi met Mr. Mandela during his swing through southern African countries.

Mr. Savimbi refused in the APTV interview to condemn Mr. Mandela's government for allowing the mercenaries to operate, but said that the situation should be "eased."

"It is a fact that no one can approve of mercenaries anywhere on the African continent," Mr. Savimbi said. "These activities are contrary to the spirit of peace and reconciliation in the region."

Mr. Savimbi's meeting with Mr. Mandela was largely ceremonial and followed more substantive talks Friday with Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, Mr. Mandela's main diplomatic troubleshooter.

Russia to sell its single aircraft carrier to India

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia may sell its last aircraft carrier still in service to India, an official said Saturday.

The carrier Admiral Kuznetsov has been in the Northern Fleet since 1990. It is capable of carrying up to 50 SU-27 and MiG-29 fighter jets and has a displacement of nearly 70,000 tonnes.

The ITAR-TASS news agency quoted an unidentified official with the state arms-trading company Rosvooruzheniye who said Russia intends to sell it to India, although South Korea and other countries also have shown interest.

Three smaller carriers of an older type — the Kiev, Minsk and Novorossiisk — have been mothballed in recent years, and the navy officials have announced they would be sold for scrap. Another vessel of the same type, Admiral Gorskov, is now under repairs and also offered for sale.

The official military daily Krasnaya Zvezda Saturday assailed plans to sell aircraft carriers, saying Russia needs them to remain a great naval power.

German CDU wonders about the post-Kohl era

BONN (R) — Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) open their annual congress Monday as overshadowed by the German chancellor that the party's top maverick has warned it against developing a "Fuehrer cult."

Heiner Geissler, a long-time Kohl rival who heads the CDU's liberal wing, angered many colleagues with his overblown analogy and may lose his post as vice-chairman of the party's faction in parliament because of it.

His criticism, though, struck at the heart of the CDU's problem. Now 13 years in power, the party is so far ahead in the polls that it can look forward to ruling into the next century — as long as Mr. Kohl, 65, stays at the top.

But what happens when he's gone? How should the party prepare for the post-Kohl era? Several CDU thinkers more tactful than Mr. Geissler are asking the same questions.

"The CDU cannot become a party with a Fuehrer cult fixed on one person," Mr. Geissler declared last week in the Third Reich parallel that prompted protests from fellow deputies.

"Otherwise, it would burst like pricked balloon when that person is no longer there," he told the weekly Die Woche.

Recent opinion polls support Mr. Geissler's concerns.

The CDU, with its CSU sister party in Bavaria, could win an absolute majority of parliamentary seats if an election were held today. It leads the disoriented Social Democrats by 45 to 32 per cent, the electoral research group said.

But asked if it would do as well without Mr. Kohl, 65 per cent of those queried said no. Even more telling, 78 per cent of CDU members surveyed agreed their party would be worse off without the veteran leader, the Forsa polling group reported.

"Nobody will talk openly about Kohl's future at the congress," predicted one CDU official who, like many others in Bonn, assumes but is not sure that Europe's longest-serving leader will seek reelection in 1998. Mr. Kohl refuses to comment.

The three-day meeting in Karlsruhe, the southwestern city where Germany's Supreme Court stands, will indirectly address the issue Wednesday when it votes on introducing quotas for women and party primaries to pick future candidates.

Mr. Kohl, concerned that CDU support is weakest among younger women, wants one-third of all party posts and candidate slits reserved for female members. This is expected to pass despite strong doubts among the conservative male majority.

He is less enthusiastic about the primaries proposed by CDU General Secretary Peter Hintze to make the party more open to its grass roots and thus more attractive for new members.

The CDU's powerful parliamentary leader Wolfgang Schaueble and several cabinet members also oppose primaries.

A younger generation of CDU leaders now rising in the ranks of state politics wants to go beyond these cautious reforms.

"The party leadership isn't flexible enough to make the CDU ready for the challenges of the next century," says Ole Von Beust, 40, CDU leader in Hamburg's city hall. "Too many people there want to rest on Kohl's laurels."

15 make stage 3 of Chopin Competition

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Three Russians, three Italians and two Americans are among 15 qualifiers for stage three of the prestigious Frederic Chopin Competition for young pianists, the jury announced. The announcement reduces the field for the \$25,000 prize from 130 in the Oct. 2-22 competition. "I am very excited and very happy. It's a relief at least," said Gabriela Montero of Miami, one of the two Americans. "You can relax a bit (in the next stage). There are very difficult pieces, but very expressive," said the 25-year-old Venezuela-born Montero. The competition, first held in 1927, pays homage to the 19th-century Polish-born composer and typically launches international careers. Full of temperament and praised by critics, Montero said she was looking forward to playing her favourite Mazurkas — demanding not only impeccable technique but also the ability to expose Chopin's emotions. This year's favourite with audiences has been Alexei Sultanov, a 26-year-old Russian. He was the only competitor to have a performance interrupted by applause.

Baywatch's Pamela Anderson hospitalised

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (R) — Pamela Anderson, the buxom blonde star of TV's Baywatch, was treated in a hospital Friday for "flu-like symptoms." A spokeswoman for St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica said Anderson, 27, was undergoing tests and was "doing fine." She said the actress was sent to the hospital by her doctor after she complained of feeling unwell at home Thursday night. Anderson, who recently suffered a miscarriage, is married to Tommy Lee, drummer with the heavy metal rock band Motley Crue.

Preacher may be prosecuted for punching saint

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — An Evangelical preacher who punched and kicked an effigy of Brazil's patron saint on television could be taken to court for his disrespect, TV Globo said Saturday. A Rio judge is investigating the incident on a television show Thursday that has angered not only Brazilian Catholics but followers of other faiths as well. The preacher attacked the effigy of Our Lady of Aparecida on the day Brazil honours her with a national holiday.

Man fined for duck noises

CANBERRA (R) — An Australian man has been fined \$1,500 for quacking like a duck on his radio transmitter, a court official in the Tasmanian town of Launceston said. Don Desmond Davey, 57, was convicted for broadcasting something that was not speech, the official said. Mr. Davey pleaded guilty to 16 charges over the operation and possession of unlicensed radio communications equipment and was also ordered to hand over his radio.

Athens cracks down on litter

ATHENS (AFP) — Authorities in the historic but polluted Greek capital, have brought in stiff fines for citizens who leave litter and transform open spaces into unofficial rubbish tips. Mayor Dimitris Avramopoulos announced the fines and ordered Athenians to clean up their yards and gardens as well.

Thousands flee Dhaka ahead of new strike

DHAKA (AFP) — Amidst new attempts to bring the prime minister and opposition leader to the negotiating table, Bangladesh braced for new violence in a four-day general strike from Monday against the government of Khaleda Zia.

Thousands of people fled Dhaka, some calling it a "strike holiday," while those remaining in the capital took precautions against disturbances.

Newspapers said those wealthy enough were going abroad, especially to neighbouring India, and most others to homes outside Dhaka.

"People are gripped by panic, fearing violence during the strike," said the mass circulation Janakantha daily.

But the newspaper highlighted hopes for moves by diplomats and a group of eminent citizens to end the 18-month political crisis caused by the opposition

campaign to force Mrs. Zia to stand down.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia Saturday called on opposition Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed, and other rivals, to hold talks instead of resorting to anti-government action.

"Come, let us talk at my office, parliament or any other place" to end the crisis, she told a rally in the northern district of Natore, state-run Bangladesh Television reported.

This strike will be the longest in a series called by the opposition in support of its demand that Mrs. Zia resign and allow elections under a caretaker government. Nearly all have been marked by clashes.

But there are growing signs of behind-the-scenes pressure to end the political conflict.

A group of eminent citizens that has met Mrs. Zia also held talks with Mrs. Wajed, according to politi-

cal sources, in an attempt to stop the crisis deepening. The sources said they could meet the prime minister again at any time.

The Daily Star newspaper, without giving details, said the acting general secretary of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Abdul Manan Buiyian, and Home Minister Abdul Madin Chowdhury met late Saturday with the mayor of Dhaka, Muhammad Hanif, and a senior Awami League leader.

On top of popular fears over the loss of life and property in the chaos, the business community is increasingly concerned at the effect on the economy.

Salman Rahman, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry told a seminar that politicians could face the wrath of the people. "The silent majority are waking up," he warned.

"The politicians are increasingly losing their respect by their actions which is a power struggle at the cost of the nation," said one businessman, requesting anonymity.

The opposition maintains it would hold talks and allow Mrs. Zia to complete her five-year term if she agreed to let a caretaker government oversee the next general elections due in 1996.

Mrs. Wajed's party and other opposition groups — the Jani Party of jailed former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and the Muslim fundamentalist Jamaat-E-Islami — resigned their parliamentary seats in December.

Opposition MPs say fair polls were impossible under Mrs. Zia. But the prime minister has rejected the demands as "unconstitutional," though she says she would step down 30 days ahead of polls.

Poll shows solid gains for Quebec separatists

MONTREAL (R) — A new poll released Saturday showed solid gains for Quebec separatists in the week after their most popular leader, Lucien Bouchard, was given more prominence in the campaign for the Oct. 30 referendum.

The Leger Leger poll said the yes side — favouring Quebec separatism from Canada — had picked up two percentage points and pulled ahead, though they were still marginally behind after the allocation of undecided voters.

"This is the first time that it's possible for the sovereigntists to see a victory for the yes side," Jean-Marc Leger, president of group Leger Leger said.

"It also ends suggestions that the no side would crush the sovereigntists," he said. The poll was commissioned for the Toronto Globe and Mail and Journal De Montreal newspapers.

It showed 45 per cent of Quebecers voting yes and

42.4 per cent voting no, with 1.6 per cent not voting, 4.8 per cent undecided and 6.2 per cent not answering. A week ago, 42.9 per cent said yes and 43.7 per cent no.

After allocating those who were undecided and did not answer, the no side was ahead 50.8 per cent to 49.2 per cent, having slipped from 52.8 per cent to 47.2 per cent a week ago.

This follows a Gallup poll released Friday night showing the no side leading 43 to 39 per cent, or 53 to 47 per cent after apportioning undecided voters.

Pollsters say undecided voters tend to vote more for the status quo as they appear more concerned about the possible consequences of pulling out of Canada.

Leger Leger polls have tended to show more strength for the separatists than those by other major polling firms, but the change from the last poll

was unmistakable.

Mr. Leger said the improvement in the yes side's position largely reflected the fact that Mr. Bouchard has replaced less-popular Premier Jacques Parizeau as the visible head of the sovereigntist campaign.

"It was a good week, yes," Mr. Bouchard, leader of the Bloc Quebecois in the federal parliament, told an ebullient gathering Friday. "Next week is going to be even better."

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, fighting to keep Canada together, told reporters in Montreal he was not at all concerned, and pointed to the defeat of the last sovereignty referendum in 1980.

"Last time it was much closer than this time, and the result was 60-40 (in favour of unity)," he said.

Asked if he would imitate Mr. Bouchard in being more active on the campaign trail, Mr. Chretien said no.

"The strategy of Mr. Bouchard was to destroy us in the House of Commons. That was given three weeks, and it was he that left (the battlefield) first. So that strategy wasn't working," he said. Ours is working and we don't need to change.

Some 73.6 per cent of the respondents said Mr. Parizeau was right to have named Mr. Bouchard a week ago as the chief negotiator of an economic and political partnership with the rest of Canada in the event of a separatist victory.

The referendum will ask Quebecers if Quebec should become sovereign after offering — not necessarily achieving — a new economic and political partnership with Canada.

The Leger poll was conducted from Oct. 8-12 over 1,002 voters, with a plus or minus 3.1 per cent margin of error 19 times out of 20.

Opposition leader arrested over Mugabe murder plot

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Veteran opposition leader Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole was arrested Saturday for suspected links to a plot to assassinate President Robert Mugabe, police said.

The fiery, eccentric preacher, 75, was taken from his Harare home following disclosures Tuesday that an armed group claiming loyalty in his small

party planned to ambush Mr. Mugabe's motorcade. Police spokesman Enock Ngunyena said Rev. Sithole, a member of parliament, was being questioned about the alleged plot involving two men charged with conspiracy to commit murder and engage in acts of terrorism and sabotage.

Rev. Sithole, an independent congregationalist minister, helped found what is

now Zimbabwe's governing party in the 1960s but split with Mr. Mugabe shortly after the end of white minority rule in 1980.

Rev. Sithole spent a decade in self-imposed exile in the United States after being accused of plotting an uprising against Mr. Mugabe's government. He returned to Zimbabwe in 1992.

His Zimbabwe African

National Union-Ndonga Party holds the only two opposition seats in the 150-seat parliament.

On Tuesday, prosecutors said that Simba Mhlanga, 30, alleged commander of the Chimwenje Freedom Fighters, a little-known dissident group, was accused of leading at least 11 men on a mission to attack Mr. Mugabe's motorcade on Aug. 18.

Koreans thought Moscow hijacker was prankster

SEOUL (R) — A group of South Koreans who escaped unhurt from a 10-hour hostage drama in central Moscow thought at first the man who hijacked their bus was a prankster, officials and news reports said Sunday.

The South Koreans, employees of the Hyundai Electronics Industries Co., were all in good shape and would go ahead with a planned tour of Germany, Hyundai spokesman Cho Won-Sang said in Seoul.

"We were panicked when we heard the news about the hijacking," Mr. Cho said of a drama in which 24 Hyundai employees, two Korean guides and a Russian driver were held hostage on a tourist bus.

The gunman had released

all but four people by the time Russian police stormed the bus to kill the man and free the remaining hostages Sunday.

"Despite the incident, we will let them travel to Germany to look around industrial facilities there as we have confirmed that they are in good health," Mr. Cho told Reuters.

The South Korean government expressed gratitude to Moscow for its "quick" cooperation and the successful police operation to rescue the hostages.

"Our government expresses deep gratitude to the Russian government," Foreign Ministry spokesman Suh Dae-Won said in a statement.

In an interview with South Korean correspondents in

Moscow, one of the hostages, Yoon Dong-Hyon, said a masked man aimed a pistol at the group and shouted "draw the curtain" after they got on the bus near the Kremlin.

"We thought it was a joke and all laughed," Yoon was quoted as saying by South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

"Then the guy fired a warning shot towards the ceiling. We realised it was serious and gestured to vendors around the bus that we were in danger but they thought we were saying hello," he was quoted as saying.

Yoon said two of the 26 managed to escape during the confusion. The bus was surrounded by police in about 20 minutes, he said.

The hijacker, speaking to the tourists through their Russian-speaking guide, assured them that they would not be hurt if he got a ransom of \$10 million, Yoon said.

"He let us smoke and sleep," said Yoon, one of the hostages freed early on.

Before Yoon was released, the gunman displayed a package he was carrying and said it was a bomb which he would set off if the hostages did not cooperate.

Yoon denied Russian reports the hijacker was from North Korea. "He was masked but he definitely had a Caucasian nose," he was quoted as saying.

The Hyundai employees left Seoul Friday for a week-long trip to Moscow and Germany.

Seoul asks U.S. to slow down in rapprochement with Pyongyang

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea has asked Washington to slow down in seeking a rapprochement with North Korea, citing the Communist nation's refusal to improve inter-Korean relations, reports said Sunday.

Seoul has sent a strong note to Washington in a bid to persuade U.S. officials from hastily opening a liaison office in Pyongyang, which remains unwilling to improve ties with South Korea, the Chosun-Illbo newspaper said.

It said there was a widespread feeling of unease among South Korean officials over Washington's push for closer ties with North Korea, the newspaper said.

"Washington seems to make haste with the opening of a diplomatic office in Pyongyang," a government source was quoted by the paper as saying.

In related remarks published Sunday by the New York Times, South Korean President Kim Young-Sam expressed concern over the North's hardline stance, calling it "a very difficult partner to deal with."

"Our concern is that

because of their desperation or frustration about their declining economy, they may start on a course of adventurous military provocation, Mr. Kim was quoted as saying.

Referring to South Korea's shipment of 150,000 tonnes of free rice to North Korean flood victims, Mr. Kim said he felt betrayed and disappointed by Pyongyang.

After a brief thaw created by the rice shipments which started in June, inter-Korean relations turned frosty again following the breakdown of rice talks between the two Koreas in Beijing three weeks ago.

Seoul contends that inter-Korean talks are a prerequisite to U.S.-North Korean normalisation under their landmark accord concluded a year ago, which defused a crisis over the North's controversial nuclear programme.

Under the Geneva accord, the North closed suspected nuclear facilities in return for a promise by Washington of diplomatic and economic benefits.

As a first step, Washington and Pyongyang have agreed to open liaison offices in each other's capitals.

Meanwhile a South Korean official said Sunday President Kim has urged Japan to repent fully for the atrocities it committed against Koreans before and during World War II.

"I have future-oriented thoughts basically. But Japan... should make full repentance for its past wrongdoings," an official at the prime minister's office quoted Mr. Kim as telling a dinner meeting with his cabinet ministers Saturday.

Mr. Kim, disclosing the contents of his interview with the New York Times earlier Saturday, told the ministers that the division of the Korean peninsula had resulted from Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of Korea, the official said.

Mr. Kim also criticised Japan's direct talks with North Korea on rice "over the heads" of South Korea. He said it undermined Seoul's efforts towards unification of the two Koreas, still technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean War.

Mr. Kim's comment was apparently in response to recent remarks made by Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on Tokyo's position about a

1910 treaty under which Japan colonised Korea.

On Oct. 5, Mr. Murayama told parliament the treaty was signed and implemented in a technically valid manner, judging from international relations and other circumstances at the time.

Mr. Murayama Friday moved to head off a furor over his remarks by saying the annexation treaty was signed on an "unequal footing".

"I don't think the two countries stood on an equal footing in signing the annexation treaty," Mr. Murayama told parliament's lower house budget committee.

In the parliamentary session, Mr. Murayama said Japan must squarely face history and reflect on what it had done to the Korean people in order to build "friendly relations".

Nevertheless, Mr. Murayama's remarks triggered fierce criticism from both South and North Korea where bitter memories remain of Japan's 35 years of colonial rule, which ended in 1945 with Tokyo's defeat in World War II.

Gunmen kill politician, 8 others in Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Gunmen shot dead nine people, including a politician, in the Pakistani city of Karachi Saturday night and Sunday, the start of a week in which planned opposition protests threaten renewed unrest.

The ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM) has called for a strike Wednesday to protest against what it says was the killing of one of its activists in police custody last week. Police say the activist, Mufeez Farooqi, died in a shoot-out with MQM gunmen in which his brother Fahim Farooqi and two other MQM detainees under police escort were killed Tuesday.

On Thursday, the main opposition Pakistan Muslim League plans to stage a nationwide "black day" of protest to mark the end of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's second year in power.

Police said unidentified attackers killed Ahmad Ali Soomro, 40, a former member of Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party, outside his house at midnight.

They said the son of a

municipal councillor was shot dead Sunday morning. Seven other people, including five members of a single family, were killed in separate incidents overnight.

Unidentified gunmen herded members of a family into a corner of their house in the North Nazimabad area of the city.

They killed five people, four of them women, and seriously wounded another woman. Another family member had been killed half an hour earlier. The motive for the attacks was not immediately clear, police said.

On Saturday, three policemen were killed by gunmen in a drive-by shooting in the neighbouring city of Hyderabad, also troubled by conflict between the MQM and security forces.

More than 75 people have been killed in Karachi this month, raising the death toll for the year to more than 1,600.

Ms. Bhutto said Saturday that the government wanted stalled peace talks with the MQM to produce results.

"The government is very serious in talks. We do not want to use force. We are

only interested in restoration of peace and tranquillity," she told a group of newspaper editors.

"Karachi does disturb us. We have made some headway. The restoration of peace is a slow but uphill task," she said.

Ms. Bhutto accused the MQM, which represents Urdu-speakers who fled from India after partition in 1947 and their descendants, of having a narrow ethnic outlook which did not serve Pakistan.

"How can a person born in Pakistan be said to be a refugee (Mohajir)? Karachi is multi-ethnic," she declared.

Ms. Bhutto reiterated her view that MQM leader Altaf Hussain, living in self-exile in London, should return to Pakistan and face court charges against him.

Top army officers arrested

Meanwhile Ms. Bhutto said several senior army officers had been arrested, but did not confirm newspaper reports Sunday that they were suspected of working for an Islamic revolution.

"Some individuals are under investigation, but it is

premature to say anything," she told newspaper editors Saturday night.

"When the investigations are completed, details will be known and the nation will be taken into confidence."

Ms. Bhutto had been asked to comment on a statement by Senator Tariq Chaudhry, a member of a party allied to the ruling Pakistan People's Party, that senior army officers were under arrest.

The English-language daily The Nation said Major General Zaheer-Ul-Islam Abbasi, working as director general of infantry at general headquarters had been arrested with a brigadier general, a colonel and three dozen army officers on Sept. 26.

A military spokesman refused to confirm the details carried by The Nation, but another officer said Gen. Abbasi had been correctly identified.

Gen. Abbasi previously served as military attaché at the Pakistani embassy in New Delhi and was expelled after being declared persona non grata. The Nation said.

Report: Russian criminals behind theft of beryllium

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russia's notorious organised crime syndicates were behind the theft in 1993 of radioactive beryllium from a Russian nuclear laboratory and the failed attempt to sell the material in the West, according to a magazine and broadcast report.

The crime syndicates, known as "Mafiya," appear to be deeply involved in the theft and smuggling of nuclear-related materials out of Russia for sale to the highest bidder, the report said.

The mysterious beryllium shipment was seized by

police in Lithuania and remains today in the bank vault where it was first discovered, according to the report. Seizure of the material was reported widely in 1993.

But a five-month investigation by U.S. News and World Report and CBS' "60 Minutes" programme has shed additional light on the theft. The report is to be aired by CBS Sunday and is featured in the magazine issue appearing on newsstands Monday.

According to the report, the smugglers were preparing to sell the beryllium to

an Austrian middleman who in turn had a mystery buyer who was ready to pay as much as \$24 million for the material, 10 times its legitimate market value. The buyer, although never identified, was said to be Korean, according to the report.

Beryllium, which is used in missile guidance systems and for other military purposes, is a highly efficient neutron reflector, according to nuclear scientists. That makes it valuable for building more efficient nuclear warheads or a smaller nuclear reactor.

Russian and U.S. authorities have said frequently that they believe the greatest concern about the smuggling of nuclear materials out of the former Soviet Union stems from possible thefts by plant workers, disgruntled scientists or amateur criminals.

But the beryllium case shows that organised crime also is deeply involved, according to the magazine and television report.

The journalists found that a trading firm in Moscow linked to the Russian "Mafiya" handled the export of the beryllium.

SIEMENS AG - J o r d a n B r a n c h

is proud to announce the signing of the contract for the installation of Digital telephone exchanges for 300000 lines



On Oct. 12, 1995, the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has signed an agreement with Siemens AG, to install digital telephone exchanges in several areas all around Jordan at a cost of JD 26 million within the framework of the National Telecommunication program.

Siemens will implement the project within 24 months.

The agreement was signed by TCC Director General Mr. Walid Dweik and Director International Sales Mr. F. Raffelsberger on behalf of Siemens AG in the presence of the Chairman of the board of TCC Mr. Jamal Sarairoh, the Minister of Post and Communication and the Chairman of the supervisory board of Siemens AG, Dr. Hermann Franz.

SIEMENS

5 make stage 3 of Chopin Competition

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Three Russians, three Americans and two Poles are among 15 qualifiers for the 22nd Chopin Competition for young pianists, the jury announced Sunday.

The announcement reduces the field for the \$25,000 prize from 130 to 15. The Oct. 22 competition will be very exciting, at least, said Gabriela Montero of Miami, one of the two Americans.

"I am relaxed but in the new target. There are very difficult pieces, but very expressive," said the 25-year-old Venezuelan-born pianist.

The first field in 1977, pay homage to the 19th-century Polish-born composer and typically launches international careers. Full of temperament and trained by cruties, Montero said she was looking forward to playing her favorite Mazurkas — demanding not only impeccable technique but also the ability to expose Chopin's emotions. The year's favourite with audiences has been Alexander Soltanov, a 20-year-old Russian. He was the only competitor to have a performance interrupted by applause.

Baywatch's Pamela Anderson hospitalised

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (R) — Pamela Anderson, the bikini blonde star of TV's Baywatch, was treated in a hospital Friday for "flu-like" symptoms. A spokeswoman for St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica said Anderson, 27, was "undergoing tests and was 'flu-like.'" She said the actress was sent to the hospital by her doctor as she complained of feeling unwell at home Thursday night. Anderson, who recently suffered a miscarriage, is married to Larry Birkhead, a former NFL player.

Preacher may be prosecuted for punching saint

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — An 11-year-old preacher who punched and kicked an effigy of Brazil's patron saint on television could be taken to court for his disrespect. TV Globo on Saturday said a judge investigating the incident on a television show Thursday that has angered only Catholics but followers of other faiths as well. The preacher attacked the effigy of Our Lady of Aparecida, on the day of her feast, the Brazilian national holiday.

Man fined for duck noises

CANNI KRA (R) — An Australian man has been fined \$1,500 for quacking like a duck on his radio transmitter, a court official in the Tasmanian town of Launceston said. The 57-year-old Desmond Davey, 57, was convicted for broadcasting something that was not speech, the official said. Mr. Davey pleaded guilty to 16 charges over the operation and possession of unlicensed radio communication equipment and was also ordered to hand over his radio.

Athens cracks down on litter

ATHENS (AFP) — Authorities in the historic but polluted Greek capital have brought in stiff fines for citizens who leave their cars and trunks open space and transform rubbish into unofficial rubbish tips. Mayor Dimitris Avramopoulos announced the fine and ordered Athens to clean up their yards and gardens as well.

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Parades before the fact

IRAQI SCHOOLCHILDREN'S rehearsal of victory parades for Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, well before the results of yesterday's referendum were announced, indicates the shallowness with which the costly exercise was being conducted. The songs of adulation for the Iraqi leader, coupled with uninhibited predictions by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that support for President Saddam Hussein would amount to 100 per cent will not be able to hide the fact that Iraq today is no less deprived of the most elementary features of real pluralistic democracy.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz attempted, in vain, to dispel the belief that the referendum was totally unnecessary when he admitted that his country was not aiming for the type of democracy that is found in the West for instance. While it is true that developing countries such as Iraq cannot be expected to enjoy that kind of democracy, we would have expected that what the Iraqi people did and do yearn for, before and now, is at least the beginning of a democratic process that is basically derived from international norms and standards.

Baghdad has signed and ratified so many international human rights conventions and treaties, which put Iraq in the group of nations that support basic freedoms and liberties for their peoples. Yet the realities in our sister country demonstrate beyond a shadow of doubt that it is no way near the path of functional democracy, not now nor in the immediate future. No matter what the outcome of Sunday's plebiscite is, therefore, it would be never legitimate or credible enough to establish one way or another the free choice of the Iraqi people. The only sensible way left for Iraq is to first dismantle the police state, allow the establishment of political parties, and then conduct free parliamentary elections based on pluralism and the collective rights of all Iraqis.

We agree that all efforts should be concentrated on lifting the sanctions against Iraq as a top priority. Inching towards true democracy, though, could only help that cause — not undermine it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A writer in Al Ra'i daily Sunday attacked a report by Rolf Ekeus, the United Nations special envoy overseeing the dismantling of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, in which he recommends that sanctions remain imposed on Iraq for fear of its future ability to produce nuclear and chemical weapons. Tareq Masarweh said that because of the report, Iraq would not be permitted to sell oil, even though its people are suffering from a lack of funds for food and medicine. The maintenance of sanctions is inhibiting Iraq's ability to develop industrially, culturally and socially and is forcing the Iraqis to concede to American terms, added the writer. This act of genocide, wrote Mr. Masarweh, is the objective of the United States, which is employing the U.N. and its envoy to execute Washington's orders and exterminate millions of Iraqi citizens. Condemning the U.N. Security Council's policy on Iraq, the writer said that the Council was acting as an accessory to a crime committed against the Arab people.

By announcing that national unity was one of Jordan's primary priorities and by stressing that refugee rights would be safeguarded, King Hussein ended rumours in the press concerning the future of refugee-camp residents, said Al Dustour daily Sunday. The paper said that King Hussein's emphasis on national unity, no matter the origin of a Jordanian citizen, had reassured tens of thousands of camp inhabitants. Rumours of eviction had spread following a court ruling that restored its owners the land where Al Hussein camp is established, said the daily. The King's instructions to the government to solve the problem practically, has set every one's mind at rest, the paper added.

Human Rights File

What the future may hold for the West Bank

By Waleed M. Sadi

CALL ME a pessimist, but the more I think about it, the more I am convinced that come the third and final stage of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), the whole peace process between the two sides will crumble like a house of cards. It is not only that the Israeli body politic was evenly and dangerously divided over the limited and modest Oslo II accord that has convinced me, but the tide of Israeli public opinion for peaceful accommodation with the Palestinians on the basis of Oslo I is fast eroding and turning hostile. The stature of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the architect of the Oslo I and all the subsequent agreements struck on its basis, is weakening to the extent that he may not be able to deliver much when the final stage of peace talks arrives. What Israel conceded to the PNA thus far is peanuts compared to what the Palestinians expected from them in the preceding years.

And when the day of reckoning arrives, the Israelis may find themselves unwilling or unable to deliver effective control to the PNA over much of the West Bank. Not to mention the thorny subject of Jerusalem, where the Israelis are united in not giving up sovereignty rights over East Jerusalem to the Arab. But by the time Israel and the PNA discover that what they have started cannot be completed, Israel would have concluded peace accords with all the Arab states including Syria and Lebanon, leaving the Palestinians alone, stranded and isolated. By then, the Palestinians will have no claim on the Arab countries, since it is they who separated from Arab ranks in the first place by secretly negotiating a separate agreement with

the Rabin government in 1993 in the Norwegian capital, Oslo.

Can the Palestinians then pick up the pieces and start all over again salvaging what could be saved? I think the PNA would do itself greater justice if it levels with the Palestinian people and tells them that the creation of an independent Palestinian state is not really on the cards, just as Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has repeatedly reassured his people. The Labour-led government in Israel is aiming for the creation of Palestinian entities within the West Bank that are not necessarily connected even geographically. Rabin aims to keep the West Bank under effective Israeli control. This explains why the Israeli Peace Now movement has recently accused the Labour government of actually implementing on the ground what the Likud Party has advocated for decades. The current building and housing campaign in the Palestinian territories attests to the fact that there may be no real difference between Likud and Labour when it comes to the final Israeli vision of the West Bank.

We need to keep in mind that the territory of former Palestine is so tiny to national demands of both sides, and especially the ambitions of Israeli military strategists. It was reported and confirmed that the late Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan once called on his generals in the wake of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war to propose lines of demarcation to which Israeli troops may "safely" withdraw within the West Bank. The reply of the Israeli military then was that there were no such safe boundaries to which the Israeli army can withdraw. This, and other relat-

ed confirmed reports, would explain Jordan's failure to strike an equitable deal with Israel on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolution 242 for more than two decades of Israeli occupation.

If Israel, therefore, is unwilling to relinquish effective control to the Palestinians over much of the West Bank, then the two sides would eventually face a new situation that could re-impose the creation of a de facto binational state in the whole of Palestine. This is admittedly anathema to Rabin and like-minded Israelis who have decided to separate Israel from the Palestinians altogether. Still, if the majority of the Israelis would prefer to separate from the Palestinians, how can they reconcile this objective with their insistence on maintaining a firm grip over what they still call Judea and Samaria? Unless of course Israel has a long-term solution to the presence of millions of Arabs in these areas that we have not considered yet!

Frankly, I do not see the Israelis yielding on strategic control over the West Bank whether Israel is governed by Labour or Likud. One has to be naive to think otherwise. Most probably, though, what could emerge at the end of the day — on the basis of established evidence — is a formula under which the PNA would enjoy a semblance of control over most of the West Bank but remain a vassal of sorts of Israel until the day arrives in the future when a new generation of Israelis and Palestinians can strike a new deal for coexistence within a framework of a confederation along the lines of the Canadian confederation.

U.S. conspiracy trial: All found guilty

By Jane Hunter

AFTER SEVEN days of deliberations, a federal jury in New York convicted Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and nine co-defendants of conspiring to wage a terrorist war against the United States. Stunned defence attorneys, who said they would appeal against the verdicts, bitterly denounced the government for using fear to manipulate the jury and expressed disappointment that the jurors had succumbed to anti-Muslim stereotyping.

Among the 25 guilty counts, which the jury delivered in the early afternoon of October 1, were findings that the Egyptian cleric plotted to murder President Muharak of Egypt and that Egyptian-born Sayyid Nosair murdered the Israeli right-wing extremist Meir Kahane in 1990. All 10 defendants were found guilty of the rarely used 19th century charge of seditious conspiracy. The government claimed the Kahane murder was the first act in that conspiracy, which also included the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Centre and plans to bomb buildings and tunnels.

Brushing aside the defence's claim that the bombing plots were manufactured and organised by FBI informant Emad Salem, the jurors embraced the government's theory on all but two counts. They acquitted Nosair and his cousin Ibrahim Elmagbrov of a direct role in the bomb plots.

"They convicted everyone of everything," said Abdeen Jabara, one of the attorneys for Sheikh Abdul Rahman. "If our client had been acquitted on some counts, it would have shown that they'd really studied the evidence. The defence attorneys 'totally misled the jury,' Jabara told MEI after the announcement of the verdicts. The attorneys had hoped that the jury would be sceptical of the government's evidence, but

instead they "came in with all the prejudices they had from the media," Jabara said. "We just didn't expect them to come back this quickly."

In a statement after the verdict, U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White said the convictions were for criminal acts and had nothing to do with religion or ethnicity. Jabara said one of the issues to be raised on appeal will be the judge's refusal to ask potential jurors about their attitudes towards Arabs and Muslims.

Speaking to reporters outside the courthouse, attorney John Jacobs charged that the government had put the jurors "in fear for themselves. Their attitude was, 'we're never going to let these people go home again.'"

Reporters noted the unprecedentedly high level of security in the court that continued even after the trial stopped drawing spectators, and also that the jurors were quickly escorted away in a van. Almost immediately, authorities issued a highly publicised security alert for airports and U.S. installations abroad. News organisations quoted anonymous government sources both hinting that retaliatory attacks were anticipated and admitting that no specific threats had been received.

Defence attorneys said the government raised the jurors' fears with its focus on the World Trade Centre bombing, which was included in the conspiracy allegations even though none of the defendants had any

involvement beyond travelling in the same circles as the four men convicted of the attack last year. During the nine-month trial, the government spent three and a half weeks presenting "twisted metal and witnesses that were blown across the room, and all this at the time of the Oklahoma City bombing," noted Jabara. The prosecution's message, he said was clear: "We must not allow them to bring fear into our streets."

The sheikh faces a life sentence, as does Nosair. The other eight defendants face maximum sentences of 20 years on the seditious conspiracy counts, plus terms of between five and 10 years for each of the other charges. Following the verdict, U.S. District Court Judge Michael Mukasey said he would sentence the men in late January.

It remains to be seen whether Mukasey will impose the maximum sentences against all of the defendants. One, Puerto Rican Victor Alvarez, is mildly retarded. The involvement of Clement Hampton, an American, and Faris Khalafallah, a native of Sudan, was limited to seeking bomb components. Mohammad Salih also played a minor role. Three Sudanese immigrants, cousins Amir and Fadil Abdul Ghani and Tariq Al Hassan, were arrested as they, along with Alvarez, mixed bomb ingredients. The jury did not accept their explanation that they didn't know they were mak-

ing explosives for use on U.S. targets.

Grounds for appeal

In addition to Mukasey's handling of jury selection, the defendants' appeals, which will be filed after sentences are announced, will focus on the failure of the judge and the prosecutors to tell defence attorneys that, during opening statements, they were negotiating with the man they accused of being the ringleader of the conspiracy, Siddiq Ali. He was therefore privy to defence strategy when he subsequently agreed to a plea-bargain with the government; he did not testify at the trial.

The appeals will also raise the issue of the prosecution's use of tape recordings made by FBI informant Emad Salem. Some of the 20 FBI agents called by the defence testified that, although the bureau paid Salem over \$1 million for his work on the case, agents failed to supervise his taping. The defence contends that Salem discarded exculpatory statements. Another appeal issue, according to Jabara, will be Mukasey's refusal to allow testimony by Islamic experts.

Yet another appeal issue may be the government's use of Abdul Rahman's sermons to support its contention that his preachings were a coded call to a "jihad of urban terrorism." Constitutional scholars have fretted over the implications of this limitation on the right of free speech. Abdul Rahman's principal lawyer, Lynne Stewart, related that, as the verdicts were read, the hind cleric tried to comfort her. He said: "Don't cry. I'm not the first person to go to jail for his beliefs and I won't be the last. There are always pitfalls when you choose this road."

Middle East International

By Maurice Saatchi

IN THE spirit of the times, I would like to start with some nudity. Not because I have a missed vocation as editor of a tabloid newspaper. But because nudity is highly relevant to my theme — the democracy of information.

Democracy, of course, traces its heritage back to ancient Greece. The word itself can be roughly translated as rule by the people. A less well-known item from the Greek lexicon is the word *altheia*. It means truth. But the Greeks often translated the word "truth" as "the un-hidden". Or "the uncovered". Hence the long artistic tradition of representing truth as nude. Centuries ago, for the Greeks, the truth was "that which does not hide".

So if the Athenians were among us today, they would be delighted to discover that, over the years, there has been a huge increase in the amount of information that is un-hidden. The journey began in the days when information was in the hands of the few. There was no news, because nearly everything was hidden. And then news was invented: information which someone, somewhere, wanted to remain hidden. So to know the truth, we had to know the news.

From this need to know, it was only a short distance to

where we are today. The right to know. Seen from the classical perspective, this is nothing more than the right to be told the truth. Full information. Uncovered. Unhidden. In effect, we have given birth to a new form of democracy — a democracy of information. Its parents, truth and curiosity. Its midwife, the media. So now nothing is hidden. Now we know everything.

We know how much the queen earns. We know the pension of the chairman of ICL. We know the marital condition of our political leaders.

And the sexual condition of our movie stars. We know which schools produce the best A levels.

Which hospital has the best record in hips replacement.

How much tar and nicotine there is in a cigarette.

And the precise ingredients of a packet of cornflakes.

Today, for good or ill, society's cosy status quo is being challenged dramatically; not by Rupert Murdoch or CDROMs or the Internet — but by something far more threatening. An audience with a democratic right to full information.

Nothing left to hide

But is this a birth to celebrate or regret? Is it a good thing to live in a democracy of information? Frankly, it is not as clear as some people think. In particular, there are two dangers in the democracy of information that I would like to warn against: a threat posed by it and a threat posed to it.

We should recognise that this flood of uncontrolled information has wider effects. It can shatter comforting illusions. It is disconcerting to discover that our monarchs are interested in their sexuality. And that our bosses are interested in their pay. Our streets are filled with rivers of blood from this daily slaughter of sacred cows. But the astonishment created by this stream of shocking revelations quickly turns to world-weary resignation. Who can deny that this affects the way people see life in general?

We hear a lot about the decline of deference, the death of institutions, the rise of apathy, the triumph of cynicism. But is it surprising that people lose respect for great institutions and public figures when they are constantly being exposed as corrupt, incompetent, or just

simply human?

Since the World War II, almost every British prime minister and American president has achieved a lower "low" rating from the public than any predecessor. It's a straight line down. This new democracy of information is the main cause of this disaffection and of the record low levels of esteem in which our familiar institutions are held. They have not got worse; we simply know more about them now. This is largely a good thing. But not always. In politics, democracy is corrupted when it turns into the tyranny of the majority — the "elected dictatorship" of Lord Hailsham's celebrated warning. Equally, the democracy of information is corrupted by the tyranny of revelation. Ultimately, the only people who can stop this are our editors and our regulators. They should use their power wisely. A lot depends on it.

You would think that the better informed the audience, the less the need for government regulation. But, on the contrary, it appears that some people in authority do not trust us with all this information. For example, proposals now circulating in the European Commission represent a

huge extension to government regulation of what we are allowed to see and hear. Astonishingly, it is proposed that a whole range of products which can be freely sold cannot be freely described to the public.

Instead of providing more information to people, the commission wants to cover up what is currently available. So there are threats to the advertising of toys, sweets, snacks, soft drinks, tobacco, slimming foods, alcohol, betting, pharmaceuticals — because someone somewhere, who no doubt consumes all these things like most normal people, has decided that the public cannot be trusted to receive advertising messages about them.

Directives on broadcasting. Restrictions on advertising. Bans on sexual stereotyping. Where will it end? Presumably, objections will be raised in due course to the advertising of washing powder, on the grounds that people should not be duped into the dangerous belief that they can dirty their clothes and get away with it.

It is ironic that just as we begin to enjoy the benefits of the democracy of information, some people are preparing to impose this

dictatorship of suppression. In its threat to our fundamental right of free speech it resembles the arguments of those who launched the fatwah against Salman Rushdie.

This is an "adwah" against our right to free expression through advertising. I hope everyone who believes in free expression will resist these proposals — as the Canadian supreme court recently did by ruling that bans on tobacco advertising are infringements of free speech.

So while the democracy of information is enormously welcome, we should constantly be vigilant against the threat posed by it — the tyranny of revelation; and the threat in it — the dictatorship of suppression. The temptation in such situations is to try to find a balance. A balance between truth and curiosity. But the problem in seeking balance is that you can end up falling between two stools.

Of course, the negative consequences of all the information that we have may tempt us to protect, to control. To hide and cover up. To try to go back to where we were before. But consider this: the alternatives to this new democracy of information are worse. The truth hurts. But ignorance kills.

The Guardian

This woman's child was taken from her womb so that an American couple could have him. Jan Rocha of The Guardian reports

Babies for sale

LUZ MIRANDA, 17 years old and nearly eight months pregnant, thought she was going for a pre-natal examination arranged by the woman she worked for as a maid, but then the nurses tied her down. When she struggled, they hit her.

"I cried for help and told them to stop but they just carried on. I told them I didn't want them to take my baby, then I felt the excruciating pain of the knife going in."

With only a local anaesthetic, in non-sterile surroundings, she had a caesarean section. Once the baby had been removed, Luz was abandoned in the back room of a clandestine nursery, in Asuncion, Paraguay. She was found because of a providential raid by Judge Patricia Balsco, who has been investigating the illegal baby trade. But her wounds had become infected. Doctors had to give her massive blood transfusions to save her and she is scarred for life.

In August, thanks to BBC2's Assignment programme, which went to Paraguay to investigate the baby trade, she was finally reunited with her daughter, prematurely torn from her because an adoption lawyer urgently needed a baby for prospective parents arriving from abroad.

Dionisia Gonzalez is a married woman with five children. Her husband's wages as a building labourer are very low; the family lives in a one-room shack on the outskirts of Asuncion. One day a woman appeared at her door saying she was the boss's wife and that Dionisia's husband had suffered a terrible accident and been taken to hospital. She said she would take Dionisia there, and told her to bring her 10-month-old baby, Rodrigo.

At the hospital she offered to hold him while Dionisia, distraught, rushed in to look for her injured husband. He was not there and when she came out the woman and Rodrigo had disappeared. Dionisia hunted for him, walking the streets because she had no money for transport, appealing on a radio programme where she read out a letter to him: "Are you all right, Rodrigo, are you thirsty, hungry, are you cry-

ing, are you upset because we aren't with you?"

Her agony lasted two months until the same judge, who later found Luz, organised a raid on a clandestine guardaria (nursery) and found 29 babies and small children packed into cots in small dark rooms, waiting to be adopted. As soon as new parents were found they would be transferred — by then better-fed and dressed in new clothes — to a shiny new nursery.

Rodrigo was so thin and pale that Dionisia was only sure it was her son when she recognised his birthmarks; he was also covered in severe nappy rash. Another baby was so sick that he died in hospital. Rodrigo went back to the one-room shack. Now he is three years old, but still scared of strangers. Dionisia cries when she remembers those days.

Every year hundreds of childless couples arrive in Paraguay to adopt a baby, 90 per cent from the U.S., the rest from the U.K., Europe and Israel. They come in ignorance of the misery behind Paraguay's booming adoption trade. They believe they are involved in a legal process. They have paid up to \$15,000 to an adoption agency, had a home study done, been interviewed by social workers. Many have made financial sacrifices to pay the costs. One couple mortgaged their home and sold their car.

While they wait in Asuncion for the paperwork to go through, which can take months, couples can have their baby staying with them, often in the city's most comfortable hotels. At the Gran Hotel del Paraguay, once the favourite haunt of travellers and writers, waiters manoeuvre round high chairs as they serve dinner, while the squawk of parrots in the gardens is almost drowned by baby cries.

Paraguay has no official adoption agency. Instead, a couple may be in the hands of a lawyer who arranges court hearings, translators, baby-sitters, hotels — and the baby. In some of the guardarias each cot has the lawyer's name on it.

The demand caused by falling fertility in industrialised countries has trans-

formed what was once a humanitarian act — finding new parents for an unwanted or orphaned child — into a trade dominated by a small group of unscrupulous lawyers. Paraguay, a Catholic country with strong family values, has very few orphaned or unwanted children, but it does have thousands of poor, often illiterate, women, whose babies can be bought, taken by deceit or even stolen.

Only 30 per cent of babies from such countries are given up voluntarily, believes Dr. Ruben Riquelme, head of the Judicial Investigation Centre attached to the imposing law courts, but actually situated in a few rooms in a hospital morgue. (It is also a career dead-end).

At Interpol's request, the centre is now investigating a baby-smuggling ring, discovered when Belgian police intercepted a Paraguayan couple at Brussels airport. They were about to hand over a newborn baby to an Israeli couple, and they confessed to taking another five babies into Europe in the previous six months.

The centre raided the Asuncion home of one of the ring-leaders and found more than 100 photos of babies and children and a pile of blank birth certificates, evidence which has mysteriously disappeared inside the labyrinth of the palace of justice.

Fraudulent birth certificates and false "mothers" who swear they are voluntarily giving up their babies are used by the traders. In 1990, an English family came to Paraguay and adopted a two-year-old girl. Before they left she became ill, so the lawyer found another child to take her place, using the identity papers of the first child. After a year in England the adoptive parents rejected her, and she was taken into care by the local authority. Now she has been adopted by another English family.

American couples complete the adoption process in Paraguay, and the child leaves as a U.S. citizen. U.K. couples have to complete the adoption process in England, taking the baby out of Paraguay with the mother's permission and a travel permit from the National Department for the Protection of Children, many of which have been falsified. British couples in Paraguay and in the U.K. refused to be

filmed. Some threatened injunctions to stop the programme being shown.

Several of the most notorious adoption lawyers have been charged with baby-stealing and child-trafficking. One spent five months on remand in prison in 1993, but none of the cases has come to trial because of missing evidence and reluctant witnesses. The adoption lawyers started a vicious campaign to discredit the judge who tried to stop the trade by raiding clandestine nurseries; she had to abandon the raids.

Victor Llano and Sonia Tellechea, the two judges who between them authorise most of the international adoptions, (as many as 16 in one day), were accused by the American Association of Jurists of being "complicit" with the fraudulent and illegal aspects of many adoptions and of ignoring the constitutional rights of children. Judge Llano's answer to all criticisms is that adoption is better than abortion.

The lawyers who specialise in adoption have found themselves an easy way to make money, taking advantage of foreigners' desperation for a baby and of poor women's vulnerability in a country where social inequality is huge (and where nearly 40 years of violent repression under dictator General Alfredo Stroessner has left a legacy of submission). The lawyers' defence is that they are finding good homes for the babies bred by ignorant girls.

The growing demand has boosted international adoptions in Paraguay from a few 10 years ago, when each cost only \$200-\$300, to more than 600 cases a year now. Besides the formal adoptions, an unknown number of babies are smuggled abroad. Childless Paraguayan couples say they cannot compete with the prices paid by overseas couples.

Last month, the Paraguayan Congress, under pressure from human rights campaigners, voted to suspend international adoptions for one year while safeguards are introduced. The lawyers lobbied hard against suspension, but they were also prepared for it. In the days before it became law they filed scores of new adoption applications, enough to keep them busy for months. Now it is just a question of finding the babies.



Luz Miranda shows the caesarean scar. She thought she was in for a routine check

Israel agrees to early pullout

(Continued from page 1)

oners. Mr. Arafat said there had been a "promise" from Mr. Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to solve the prisoner issue "as quickly as possible."

Israel began a symbolic withdrawal on the West Bank last week when it handed over four villages to Palestinian control after 28 years of occupation.

It also freed 900 of the 1,000 prisoners in its jails. President Ezer Weizman, however, has blocked the release of five women prisoners who have "blood on their hands" while another 20 have remained in prison in a show of solidarity.

Mr. Peres, however, called on the 20 women to use their right to go free, saying their protest served no purpose. "Why should they wait," he added.

The Israeli foreign minister, asked if he objected to Mr. Arafat's attempts to persuade the militant group Hamas to take part in the elections in return for a reconciliation of violence, said it was not Israel's problem but an issue for the PLO.

Earlier Sunday, members of the Palestinian National

Authority's (PNA) preventive security service reopened five offices in villages near Jenin, defying Israeli orders they remain shut. Palestinians said.

"The office is open. We'll go on opening these offices in preparation to receive our national authority and we will not respond to the Israeli military," Mohammad Kabaha, an official at the office in Yabada village, told Reuters.

Kadoura Mousa, Mr. Arafat's representative in the north of the West Bank, said: "These offices will remain open."

The Israeli army closed the offices on Saturday, saying they were opened illegally in areas under Israeli control. Israel confined Palestinian security chief Jibril Rajoub to self-ruled Jericho on Saturday for opening the five offices, Israeli security sources said.

Three members of Colonel Rajoub's force detained by Israel at the offices on Saturday were freed on Sunday, Palestinians said.

On Friday, Palestinians said the Israeli army closed down PNA offices and halted renovation work at an Arab-owned building located near Jewish settler enclaves in Hebron.

Bomb kills 6 Israelis

(Continued from page 1)

bombing campaign against South Lebanon similar to the 1992 campaign that led to a truce in the fighting.

If the Lebanese people in South Lebanon must leave their homes because of Israeli military pressure, this will affect the Hizbollah, Israel, for reasons beyond me, is not doing it," said Mr. Levran, a reserve brigadier.

He said Israel should also

Saddam wins 100% vote

(Continued from page 1)

but a media show. Everywhere with banners pledging allegiance to President Saddam.

The most popular is "Yes, yes to Saddam Hussein." For days the state-run television and radio stations ran nothing but songs in support of President Saddam.

Many seemed to believe that it is just another ploy by the regime to show the world that the current political situation has not changed especially since the defection of President Saddam's son-in-law, Hussein Kamel to Jordan in August. It also aimed at sending a message to the opposition within and outside Iraq that the regime is as strong as ever.

President Saddam spent the day relaxing in the com-

pany of Russian ultranationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and discussing the state of the world.

"He was in a good mood, much more relaxed than I have seen him before, and less confrontational and aggressive," Mr. Zhirinovskiy told reporters early Sunday. "We ate fish, a beautiful fish, a presidential fish. We drank beer... and we talked for five hours. I for four hours and he for one," said the Russian politician.

President Saddam talked about the referendum, democracy and his troubled relationship with the United States.

"Saddam said he would like to develop democracy because Iraq can't be an island in the middle of a large world."

Bosnia fighting slows down

(Continued from page 1)

mine that served as a Serb detention centre in 1992, but most are in the open.

Aid agencies have very few supplies in the nearby Serb stronghold of Banja Luka, where refugees have flooded in since early August, when neighbouring Croatia retook most of its Serb-held land and sent more than 100,000 Serbs fleeing into Bosnia.

The Red Cross has handed an additional 130,000 refugees in northern Bosnia since mid-September, when government and Croat forces started taking large chunks of Serb-held land in Bosnia, Mr. Sparrow said.

The disarray has helped trigger rifts among Serb leaders over the U.S.-led peace process. The current truce is supposed to last 60 days, ushering in peace talks in the United States on Oct. 31

government refusal to allow U.N. monitors into territory taken by Muslim-led and Croat forces last week.

But all three warring parties agreed late Saturday to submit maps giving their positions, and promised to allow the United Nations free access soon, Sochnacki said.

As territory changes hands in the north, additional reports of atrocities are coming to light.

Aid workers have reported up to 6,000 expulsions of Muslims and Croats from Serb-held territory in the past week. There have been reports of draft-age men separated from their families, summary executions, robbery and rape.

Bosnia's war erupted in April 1992, when armed Serbs rebelled against Muslims and Croats after a vote to secede from Serb-led Yugoslavia. Some 200,000 people are believed dead or missing.

Oktoberfest is the occasion you have all been waiting for. Once you join us you will be transferred from the day-to-day routine into the Bavarian atmosphere in German. Where there will be an endless flow of beer and lots of fun.

Dance away the evening, enjoy our selection of games and prizes, which include a return ticket to Germany, offered by Lufthansa.

Dress for the occasion, because we will be watching out for the best German costume.

Oktoberfest will be held on the 19th and 20th of October.

For reservations call 641561 or 2222.

German Embassy

Lufthansa

League chief: Israel cannot control Arab economy

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Israel will never be able to control Arab economies, Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid said Saturday seeking to assuage fears of economic integration with the Jewish state.

He told the London-based Middle East Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) television that Israel was far superior to its Arab neighbours in technology and its per capita income as among the highest in the region.

But "no matter how advanced it is, I cannot imagine Israel will be able to control the economy of Arab states," Dr. Abdul Meguid told MBC, monitored here.

"Israel is only four to five million people while Arabs are more than 200 million and we have massive re-

sources and a large number of intellectuals," he said.

Several Arab officials have warned against economic links with Israel following a breakthrough in the Middle East peace process. They argue Israel only wanted to control their economies and find a market for its products.

Hundreds of officials and experts from Israel and Arab states are due to gather in Amman late this month along with delegates from other countries for their second Middle East economic conference after a meeting in Casablanca last year.

The talks would cover economic relations and joint projects, including the proposed Middle East Development Bank and the Tourism Council.

Dr. Abdul Meguid, an

Egyptian, said he would attend the Amman conference but stressed Israeli-Arab economic cooperation would not be possible without peace.

"Politics and economy are faces of one coin. Economic cooperation will not succeed while there are outstanding political problems," he said.

But the head of the 22-member League said he believed Arabs and Israel would eventually reach a comprehensive peace settlement.

"There is no going back and peace has become inevitable. There are some rational people in Israel who really want peace. They realise Israel, despite its military power, cannot guarantee security without peace," he said.

Arab Gulf states in major projects to tap gas wealth

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states are pumping billions of dollars in fresh projects to tap their enormous gas wealth to benefit from growing demand in Asia and new markets.

The projects in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) run parallel with expansions in the upstream oil industry to increase production capacity and maintain sustainable capacities.

Gas exploitation projects involve investments of more than \$25 billion as they cover Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and petrochemicals.

"Such projects will turn the GCC countries into major exporters of LNG and petrochemicals and offset weak oil prices," a Gulf oil executive said.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil power, has embarked on projects to set up new petrochemical plants and expand existing complexes.

The kingdom already accounts for nearly 75 per cent of the total GCC production of petrochemicals and fertilizers and the new projects would sharply boost that share.

They cover the production of ethylene, propylene, and MTBE, a complex substance used in the production of unleaded petrol.

Qatar, the first GCC country to establish petrochemical industries, is also engaged in

expansion projects to double the output capacity of its QAPCO complex in 500,000 tonnes of ethylene and 280,000 tonnes of polyethylene.

Another company, Qatar Fertilizers, is increasing production by around 1,500 tonnes of ammonia per day and 2,000 tonnes of urea at a cost of \$500 million.

Qatar also plans to set up another project to produce more than 600,000 tonnes of methanol per year at a cost of \$450 million.

Bahrain, a small oil producer, is considering building a urea plant with an output capacity of around 560,000 tonnes per year. It will complement the existing ammonia plant, which produces around 425,000 tonnes per year.

Kuwait is setting up one of the biggest petrochemical plants in the region, with a production capacity of around 650,000 tonnes of ethylene and 450,000 tonnes of polyethylene per year.

The project, undertaken by the U.S. company Union Carbide, also includes a 360,000-tonne-capacity glycol ethylene plant.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) does not have a petrochemical industry but is planning to build a complex to produce nearly 300,000 tonnes of ethylene per year. The project is estimated to cost \$1.5 billion.

The UAE is already a major producer of fertilizers, most of which are exported in China. Production exceeds 600,000 tonnes of ammonia and urea.

Oman has also announced plans to set up a petrochemical complex at a cost of \$600-\$700 million to produce polyethylene. The sulfonate is likewise considering establishing fertilizer industries.

In LNG, Qatar is about to launch one of the biggest projects in the world to tap its giant North Field.

Industry sources said the project, involving several foreign partners, would produce nearly 20 million tonnes of LNG per year and its cost was expected to exceed \$12 billion.

Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Turkey and other countries have already signed supply contracts.

Oman also plans an LNG project to exploit its new gas discoveries. The plant, to be completed by the year 2000, will produce six million tonnes and officials have put costs at around \$8 billion.

GCC states have around 460 billion barrels of crude oil and 19.5 trillion cubic metres (652 trillion cubic feet) of natural gas. They account for nearly 45 per cent and 15 per cent of global reserves respectively.

They already have 24 petrochemical plants and 35 fertilizers plants.

GCC official urges EU to drop planned carbon tax

MUSCAT (R) — A proposed European Union (EU) energy tax would hit Arab Gulf economies and damage ties between the two trade groups, a senior Arab Gulf official said Sunday.

"This will effect negatively trade relations between the two groups because it touches upon the most important economic source of the GCC countries," he said.

The EU has been working to agree on a common policy that would impose a \$10 a barrel tax on energy supplies over 10 years, ostensibly to limit the damage to the environment by burning hydrocarbons that has been linked to ozone depletion.

"If the EU goes ahead with this proposal on carbon tax, that will widen the gap in the trade imbalance," Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Sheikh Fahim Al Oassimi said in a statement reported by the Oman News Agency.

Sheikh Fahim's remarks were published as EU and GCC private sector investors arrived in the Omani capital Muscat for ground-state talks scheduled to start Monday.

The EU and the GCC's Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Kuwait are trying to increase joint investment and have been working since 1988 on finalising a free trade accord.

But progress on the accord has been hampered by the EU's insistence on GCC unifying its trade tariffs while GCC states, who include the world's biggest oil exporters, are balking because of opposition to the proposed EU energy tax, which will hit their earnings.

"The current imbalance in trade between the two groups can only be corrected through increasing European investment in the GCC by exploiting the good investment environment in the region, as well as for the EU to retreat on their proposals to impose the carbon tax," Sheikh Fahim said.

Customs Department plans easier, fairer procedures

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter



Nazmi Al Abdullah

AMMAN — The Customs Department intends to implement several new measures to ease procedures and ensure fairness and justice while assessing customs duties on imports by setting up baseline data and increased use of computer, the director of the department, Nazmi Abdullah, said Sunday.

The new measures, expected to be in place by July 1, 1996, envisage the creation of a list of international prices for most products on the basis of which customs duties will be levied, Mr. Abdullah told the Jordan Times.

This means that in most cases the value of an imported product, for customs purposes, will be assessed at the international market prices rather than the invoices and relevant documents produced by the importer, Mr. Abdullah explained.

The customs authorities detect hundreds of cases every year where the importer has purposely undervalued the cost of goods so as to bring down the customs duties, but more often than not the detections are based on logic rather than any set parameters.

On the other hand, importers who reflect the actual prices in their invoices also complain of overzealous efforts on the part of customs

import/export will be applicable to the Jordanian system.

Another measure that Jordan plans is a "self-declaration" system and computerisation. This means, according to Mr. Abdullah, that an importer could actually assess the actual customs duties due on imports with the help of computer, which will also verify the data provided by the importers to establish accuracy.

Yet another move planned by the Customs Department is a revision of the employee incentive bonus system.

"Employee incentive" is an item in the actual customs declaration that accompanies any import into the country subject to customs duties. As the title suggests, the collected revenues are used to benefit employees of the department.

Furthermore, Customs Department employees are also entitled to a share of penalties and extra charges levied from an importer found to have undervalued the imports in the invoice.

Sixty per cent of the penalties and extra charges will be sent to the state Treasury and the rest will be deposited in a central fund that would benefit all employees.

This, Mr. Abdullah explained, helps ensure that customs inspectors do not score individual gains from overzealous efforts to assess the import value of goods at a higher than actual price.

U.S. government nearing debt ceiling

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government will reach the limit of its borrowing authority of \$4.9 trillion at the end of this month, the Clinton administration has said.

Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, attending a conference of business leaders in Williamsburg, Virginia, said the government "will hit the debt ceiling Oct. 31."

A Treasury official who spoke on condition of anonymity said Mr. Rubin has not pinpointed the date before, saying instead that borrowing authority would be exhausted at the end of October. Others

have said that the first real risk of a government default could occur Nov. 15 when the Treasury is due to make a \$25 billion interest payment on the debt.

Republicans in Congress have vowed not to raise the debt ceiling until President Clinton agrees to their plans to trim federal spending and eliminate the deficit in seven

years. Mr. Clinton has said he will not be "blackmailed" into agreeing to the GOP programme.

Mr. Rubin has said it is irresponsible for Republicans to hold the debt ceiling hostage in the budget debate because even the risk of a government default on its debt could cause turmoil in financial markets.

Bahrain promotes hiring nationals

MANAMA (AFP) — Bahrain has decided to raise foreign labour fees in a bid to decrease local unemployment, Labour Minister Abdul Nabi Abdullah Al Shola has said.

The fee to renew a foreign work permit is 150 dinars (\$450) compared to 40 dinars (\$108) previously, he told a local newspaper, Al Ayam.

The tax on recruiting an expatriate worker will double to 100 dinars (270) in 1996, he said, adding, however, that this hike excludes the hiring of a housemaid.

Mr. Shola said the move aims at "containing the flow of foreign labour and giving job opportunities to the local work force."

The minister last month said Bahrain's unemployment rate went down to 4.6 per cent in August, from 13.8 per cent at the end of 1993.

Bahrain's population was set at 540,000 in 1993, including 200,000 foreigners.

Bahraini opposition groups in exile say unemployment is one of the main reasons for the riots that broke out in December 1994, which left at least 12 people dead. The demonstrations cooled down in April.

Bahrain, a small oil producer with 45,000 barrel-per-day output, saw its deficit double in 1994, to \$340 million, from \$172 million in 1993, as oil revenues decreased by 17.9 per cent, to \$758 million.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day to know just what it is you want out of life and then to bend your efforts in such direction vigorously.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Contact those today who are most experienced in fields of interest to you gain their expertise and support for a new project.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a good day and evening to make as many worthwhile friends as you can. Drive wisely on the highway and be courteous to others.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Place your energies on outside affairs directed towards your success and you can make great progress today. The evening is best spent at home with loved ones.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You get many excellent ideas from various sources, so pick out the best and put them in operation early. Avoid one who is jealous of you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Plan how to get ahead in practical matters today and gain the advice of one who is expert in business and provide you with the answers to pressing questions.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Have a discussion with clever partners and know what is best to do to be more successful in your endeavours. Dress carefully today with the attitude towards advancement.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be more enthused about your career activities and you can become more proficient at it. Get adverse conditions solved with the aid of fellow associates.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is a good day to set up appointments for amusements with friends. Come to an understanding with the one you love.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Give as much thought as you can today to family and home affairs and how best to improve them in such a direction to give you peace of mind.

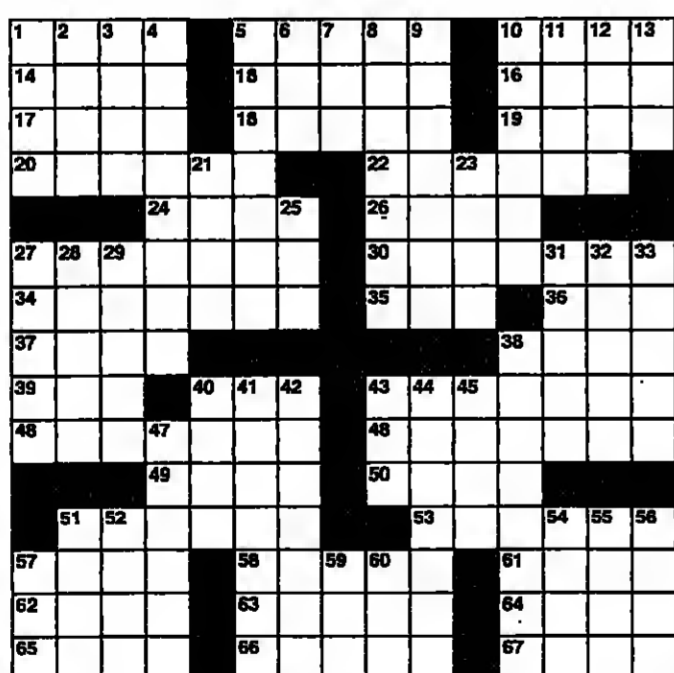
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a fine day for making as many contacts as possible and accomplish a good deal of activities in the outside world.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get into practical affairs today and add much to your present abundance. The evening should be spent quietly at home.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

THE Daily Crossword by James and Phyllis Barrick

- ACROSS**
- Energy type: abbr.
 - Embrace
 - Warrior of Greek myth
 - City in Ohio
 - Author Brel
 - Hindu deified hero
 - Entrance to a mine
 - Great quantity
 - Pesky bug
 - Pesky's male
 - Puts out
 - Pangolin meal
 - green
 - Name anew
 - Famous peak
 - Artist's studio
 - Morning moisture
 - Female kangaroo
 - Bakery items
 - Malody
 - Dog tags, for short
 - Vigoda
 - "The — Brief"
 - Kind of fishing
 - Worshipful ones
 - Tattered duds
 - Fully open
 - Kettle
 - Bell tower
 - Place in Asia
 - Where Kalmundu is
 - Indian
 - Chagall
 - In a rage
 - Vend
 - Emile or Gomer
 - Poker stakes
 - Ooze



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Yesterday's puzzle solved:



- DOWN**
- Ancient land
 - Italian resort
 - Prince of the East
 - Marsh plants
 - Joyful chuckle
 - Varnish ingredient
 - 100 square meters
 - Dirty, in a way
 - Thoughtful
 - Disputant
 - "— Eyre"
 - Armo, —, amat
 - Indian totem pole
 - Opposer
 - Did in
 - Sunday talk: abbr.
 - Overzealous
 - Composition for piano
 - Word in grammar
 - Bring out
 - Submarine device
 - High school students
 - Unflagging
 - On the double: abbr.
 - A flower
 - Oriental
 - Handle rudely
 - Comestible items
 - Ore deposit
 - Sirul
 - Waiter's item
 - Nobleman
 - Unfettered
 - Rouse to anger
 - Animal cry
 - Mischievous child
 - Butter unit
 - Devoured



Peanuts



Andy Cap



Mutt'n'Jeff



Bahrain promotes hiring nationals

business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

MANAMA (AP) — Bahrain has decided to increase local employment, 100,000 jobs, said Nabil Shaheen, Bahrain's minister of labour.

The fee to renew a foreign worker's permit is 150 dinars (\$450) compared to 100 dinars (\$300) previously, he said.

The tax on recruiting a foreign worker will double to 100 dinars (\$300) in 1996, he said, adding, however, that this hike excludes the hiring of a housemaid.

Mr. Shaheen said the move aims at "containing the flow of foreign labour and giving job opportunities to the local work force."

The minister last month said Bahrain's unemployment rate went down to 15 per cent in August, from 16 per cent at the end of 1994. Bahrain's population was 1,200,000 in 1993, including 200,000 foreigners.

Bahrain opposition groups have said unemployment is one of the main reasons for the riots that broke out in December 1994, which left 12 people dead. The demonstrations cooled down in April.

Bahrain, a small oil producer with 45,000 barrels a day output, saw its oil price in 1994, at \$340 a barrel, from \$122 million in 1993, as oil revenues decreased by 17.9 per cent to \$758 million.

Moody's debt rating may invite more foreign investments to Jordan

JORDAN HAS requested Moody's, the renowned U.S. credit rating agency, to give a rating to the Kingdom's debt as a step towards attracting foreign investment to the country, the governor of the Central Bank revealed. It is expected that the rating will be issued before the opening of the Amman Economic Summit on Oct. 29. The governor also revealed that negotiations were underway with France and Germany to reduce Jordan's debt of about \$1 billion to the two countries. The chief of the Central Bank, Mohammad Nabulsi, cautioned against expecting immediate returns from the peace process and stressed that the road was long and requiring strenuous work. He said he was not worried about closer economic ties with Israel because the aim was not to achieve an economic merger. Dr. Nabulsi was not worried either if commercial ties with Iraq were broken because "Jordan had diversified its export markets for some time." On the financial side, Dr. Nabulsi said Jordan was seeking to increase foreign exchange reserves from \$450 million to \$600 million by the end of the year. He indicated that reserves have not reached that level but noted that Japan and the World Bank have agreed to provide loans to cover the gap between what's available and the required target (Al Aswaq).

U.S., Palestinian companies sign first hi-tech venture

GAZA (R) — Samco, a Palestinian computer company based in the West Bank, and TMA, a U.S. company for technological administration, signed an agreement in Gaza Sunday to manufacture and export electronic instruments, officials said.

This was the first concrete deal to result from an investment mission to Gaza in July by the Overseas Private Investment Corp (OPIC), U.S. Consul General Edward Abington said during the signing ceremony.

OPIC aims to set up investment projects between the Palestinian and U.S. private sectors.

Jordan sees major foreign capital from Amman summit

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan said Sunday it expects this month's Middle East and North Africa summit, aided by liberalised investment laws, to spawn multi-million dollar joint ventures.

"I think we will have the ability with the new investment laws and better investment climate to attract foreign investment and compete with all the neighbouring states, having put ourselves ahead of them in many areas," said Ali Abul Ragheb, minister of industry and trade.

Mr. Abul Ragheb said in an interview that even before the summit Jordan was attracting private foreign commitments in some of the 27 major projects — to cost over \$3.5 billion — and 136 private sector projects to be submitted to the summit.

More than 1,000 government leaders and businessmen will attend the summit, a follow up to last year's Casablanca summit that for the first time brought together Arab and Israeli political and business leaders.

The minister said other countries wanted investment but Jordan would offer a better climate as a regional hub with attractive returns.

He said Jordan believed the Middle East peace process was "shifting global foreign interest to the region with a more secure political future that offered lucrative investment opportunities for the first time."

More than half the proposed \$3.5 billion in projects were in tourism and industrial plans, with the private sector investing for the first time in infrastructure and utilities, including railways, water, energy and telecommunications.

An investment law passed last month widens the scope of foreign ownership and should also draw foreign capital into the Amman exchange.

Mr. Abul Ragheb said projects would be offered at the summit on a BOT (build, operate, transfer) and BOO (build, operate and own) basis, including a \$405 million project to exploit water from the Disi aquifer on the border with Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Abul Ragheb, who heads the national committee preparing for the summit, said there was "huge demand for foreign tourism investments on the Agaba coast and the Dead Sea."

He also said major ventures in the pipeline include a Jordanian-Israeli project to exploit Dead Sea minerals with the Arab Potash Company, announced as a fait accompli by Israel last week. Jordan wants \$142 million in foreign capital for a complex for bromine.

He also said Jordan was working on a venture with Norway's Norsk Hydro firm to set up a fertilizer plant with Jordan Phosphates Mines Company.

Jordan plans to transform the Red Sea coast south of Aqaba into a major resort with tourist villages, golf and Disney-style amusement centres.

Mr. Abul Ragheb said along with a \$120 million U.S. private tourism investment in the Aqaba coast, Jordan was about to lease four tracts on the Dead Sea for construction of four major hotel complexes.

The project is the first to allow foreign investment in land on the Dead Sea, a close military area until Jordan's peace treaty with Israel last October ended 46 years of war.

Disney expects 10-fold rise in Gulf sales

DUBAI (R) — The Walt Disney Company expects sales of its products in the Gulf, where half the population is under 15, to grow tenfold to \$500 million within the next 10 years, but piracy remains a problem, officials say.

Disney consumer products Europe, Middle East and Africa President Pierre Sissmao told Reuters that annual Disney sales in the region were currently worth between \$40-\$50 million.

"If we apply the natural growth rate in mature markets (to the Gulf) 10 years from now we should be at half-a-billion dollars," he said.

The Gulf is a young market, with about half the population under the age of 15, Mr. Sissmao said. Children's influence on purchasing decisions was significant.

Inadequate or nonexistent copyright laws a few years ago meant Disney products were not sold in the region before mid-1993.

when CTC consumer products — a joint venture between the Walt Disney Co and Saudi Arabia's Jawa family — was set up.

Although copyright laws had recently been introduced, pirated products still plagued Disney in the Middle East.

"Copyright (violation) is still a problem. It is diminishing, but it is still around," CTC President Ahmad Jawa said.

Sporting a flowing white robe, the traditional Arab Gulf dress, with Mickey Mouse embroidered on the breast pocket, Mr. Jawa said within the region the United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s enforcement of copyright laws was the best.

A number of successful raids on stores carrying fake merchandise in the UAE had been carried out.

"In Saudi Arabia we are starting to get enforcement, but we are always looking for more. In Kuwait it started in August, and Qatar and Bahrain should come on line soon, but there's no positive movement in Oman yet," Mr. Jawa added.

In Egypt, almost all Disney apparel was fake and within the region, Syria was a source of pirated goods, he added.

Mr. Jawa said most Disney consumer products sold in the Middle East were imported from Europe, the Far East and the U.S.

But CTC was trying to foster local manufacturing.

"It would give the local cultural touch," Mr. Sissmao said, adding that translating books, films, videos and magazines into Arabic was an important part of Disney's drive for market share in the region.

Sales of the Arabic video of the blockbuster hit "The Lion King," which was recently launched in the Middle East, were expected to be very good, Mr. Jawa said.

He would not give a sales forecast.

Over 30 million copies of "The Lion King" video have been sold so far in the United States, making it the most popular video ever.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times

in co-operation with

Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (October 10-October 13, 1995)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit appreciated modestly against other major currencies last week. It ended the week 0.33 per cent higher against the mark, 0.57 per cent higher against sterling and 0.42 per cent higher against the yen.

While New York was closed on an official holiday Monday, the dollar declined against the mark Tuesday. Its depreciation came on the back of weak performance of the U.S. stock market. Reports indicated that the Dow Jones industrial average lost 66 points during trading hours, only to reverse and end the day down by a mere five points. News that an earthquake hit the southern part of Mexico also weighed on the dollar, as dealers assessed its impact on the Mexican economy.

The dollar appreciated against other major currencies Wednesday, however, on news that political turmoil in France had eased. Reports indicating that the French prime minister would not be convicted for a dubious lease of a housing unit owned by the city of Paris drove the French franc higher against the Deutschmark. However, analysts suspected that such respite for the franc would prove temporary as France continues to suffer from an excessive budget deficit and costly entitlement programmes. They also stressed that the dollar might be negatively affected by the poor performance of the Mexican economy, especially if Mexico fails to service its debts, which are mostly owed to U.S. entities.

The dollar depreciated against other major currencies Thursday. Reports indicated that trading was slow and attributed the dollar's decline to technical factors. Meanwhile, the market ignored comments by the president of the Bundesbank that a strong dollar is beneficial to both the United States and the international economy.

The U.S. unit rose against other major currencies at the end of the week, however. The dollar rose on the back of a U.S. bond market rally. The release of the U.S. consumer price index and retail sales showing a rise of 0.1 per cent and 0.3 per cent in September, respectively, reassured investors that the U.S. economy is witnessing a soft-landing, a scenario entailing low growth and weak inflationary pressures. Soon after the release of these figures, the yield on the 30-year U.S. Treasury bonds tumbled to a 20-month low of 6.3 per cent. Rumours that the Bank of Japan might consider another cut in its discount rate, to a new all-time low of 0.25 per cent also lent support to the dollar.

The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.4265 marks, 100.97 yen and at \$1.5740 to sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	Oct. 6, 1995	Oct. 13, 1995	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.5830	1.5740	(0.57) %
Deutsche Mark	1.4218	1.4265	(0.33) %
Swiss Franc	1.1450	1.1545	(0.82) %
French Franc	4.9955	4.9680	0.68 %
Japanese Yen	100.55	100.97	(0.42) %

* USD Fw RTC

Euro-Currency Interest Rates*

Currency	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.72	5.68	5.69	5.65
Sterling Pound	6.62	6.62	6.66	7.06
Deutsche Mark	3.95	3.95	3.93	3.93
Swiss Franc	2.00	2.12	2.00	2.25
French Franc	6.37	6.00	5.62	6.18
Japanese Yen	0.50	0.56	0.28	0.25

Interest rate bid rates for accounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7120	0.7140
Sterling Pound	1.1188	1.1244
Deutsche Mark	0.4983	0.5008
Swiss Franc	0.6138	0.6169
French Franc	0.1434	0.1441
Japanese Yen*	0.7056	0.7091
Dutch Guilder	0.4452	0.4474
Swedish Krona	0.0444	0.0446
Italian Lira*		
Belgian Franc		

* Per 100

Horoscope

FORECAST FOR NOV. 1995

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day for you to start a new project or venture. You will find success in your efforts.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20): This is a good day for you to start a new project or venture. You will find success in your efforts.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20): This is a good day for you to start a new project or venture. You will find success in your efforts.

Cancer (June 21 to July 20): This is a good day for you to start a new project or venture. You will find success in your efforts.

Leo (July 21 to August 19): This is a good day for you to start a new project or venture. You will find success in your efforts.

Virgo (August 20 to September 19): This is a good day for you to start a new project or venture. You will find success in your efforts.

Libra (September 20 to October 19): This is a good day for you to start a new project or venture. You will find success in your efforts.

Scorpio (October 20 to November 19): This is a good day for you to start a new project or venture. You will find success in your efforts.

Sagittarius (November 20 to December 19): This is a good day for you to start a new project or venture. You will find success in your efforts.

Capricorn (December 20 to January 19): This is a good day for you to start a new project or venture. You will find success in your efforts.

Aquarius (January 20 to February 19): This is a good day for you to start a new project or venture. You will find success in your efforts.

Pisces (February 20 to March 20): This is a good day for you to start a new project or venture. You will find success in your efforts.

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR JORDAN

COMPANY'S NAME

NO. OF SHARES TRADED

PREV. CLOSING PRICE

15/10/1995

VALUE TRADED

CHANGE

BANKS SECTOR

AMMAN BANK PSC

200

6/975

342,000

343,000

100

6/975

JORDAN NATIONAL BANK

200

1/114

4,380

4,380

200

1/114

BANK OF JORDAN

200

12/118

3,700

3,680

200

12/118

MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK

200

3458

2,038

2,038

200

3458

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK

200

5526

2,160

2,160

200

5526

JORDAN KUNAFAT BANK

200

2030

2,810

2,790

200

2030

JORDAN GULF BANK

200

23540

1,170

1,160

200

23540

JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK

200

2840

3,750

3,700

200

2840

UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT

200

15621

3,480

3,450

200

15621

BUSINESS BANK

200

3795

3,740

3,720

200

3795

JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK

200

2450

3,740

3,720

200

2450

WITH ISLAMIC SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING

200

500

3,400

3,400

200

500

PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK

200

388

1,030

1,050

200

388

INDEX NUMBER: 193.44

CHANGE: +0.29%

INSURANCE SECTOR

UNITED INSURANCE

1800

1800

2,500

2,500

1800

1800

JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE

100

266

2,660

2,660

100

266

INDEX NUMBER: 130.79

CHANGE: +0.00%

SERVICES SECTOR

JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER

14279

23445

1,680

1,640

14279

23445

NATIONAL SECURITIES

827

1646

2,040

2,040

827

1646

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT

1000

1070

1,070

1,070

1000

1070

ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION

1250

4093

3,250

3,300

1250

4093

ARAB PRIVATE UNIVERSITY

5700

7425

1,310

1,300

5700

7425

UNION LEASE DEVELOPMENT CORP.

3050

3388

1,110

1,120

3050

3388

INDEX NUMBER: 128.20

CHANGE: +0.21%

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

AMMAN PAPER CONVERSION & TRADING

300

340

1,200

1,200

300

340

JORDAN CEMENT FACTORY

292

3413

3,400

3,380

292

3413

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES

1674

5071

3,000

3,000

1674

5071

THE ARAB POTASH

258

1228

4,910

4,910

258

1228

JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY

83

786

9,500

9,470

83

786

THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL

250

819

3,280

3,280

250

819

ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING

2050

9431

4,620

4,600

2050

9431

JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES

2250

13500

6,000

6,000

2250

13500

THE JORDAN PIPE MANUFACTURING

275

668

2,470

2,430

275

668

DR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT

700

8088

7,210

7,150

700

8088

JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY

2092

10514

5,200

5,200

2092

10514

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

156950

11870

1,100

1,100

156950

11870

ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING

3250

4618

1,430

1,470

3250

4618

NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY

1400

3020

2,150

2,150

1400

3020

NATIONAL THERMOPLASTICS

1605

1700

1,060

1,060

1605

1700

INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

1850

3127

1,730

1,700

1850

3127

JORDAN WOODWORK INDUSTRIES

4250

4685

1,100

1,100

4250

4685

UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

100

320

3,270

3,200

100

320

NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING

1000

4100

4,100

4,100

1000

4100

ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS

600

1728

2,870

2,800

600

1728

KANTHER INVESTMENT

1050

2681

1,620

1,600

1050

2681

UNIVERSAL MOVERS INDUSTRIES

1750

5535

3,170

3,150

1750

5535

JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.

18300

36194

1,960

1,990

18300

36194

JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY

800

500

1,500

1,500

800

500

INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES

1000

1397

1,390

1,360

1000

1397

UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRY

727

437

1,990

1,990

727

437

INDEX NUMBER: 122.95

CHANGE: +0.03%

GRAND TOTAL

282339

463008

INDEX NUMBER: 158.81

CHANGE: +0.70%

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET

138379

VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET

98524

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Tourmahine

Chang captures Seiko Super in straight sets



Mark Philippoussis of Australia returns a forehand against Michael Chang of the United States in the

singles final of the Seiko Super tennis tournament in Tokyo (Reuters photo)

TOKYO (R) — Top seed Michael Chang of the United States easily overcame the bullet serves of giant-killing Australian Mark Philippoussis on Sunday to capture the \$1.02 million Seiko Super Tennis Tournament.

Chang, ranked fifth in the world, displayed a remarkable range of shots and kept up steady pressure on Philippoussis to take his first Seiko title 6-3, 6-4 in one hour and 20 minutes.

Chang, the runner-up at last year's tournament, used a variety of return shots to blunt the powerful serve of the young Australian, who disposed of three seeded players in fighting his way through to the final.

"I think he was starting to get frustrated because I was able to get quite a few of his serves back," Chang said. "Over the last couple of weeks I don't think he was used to seeing many of his serves come back."

Philippoussis, nicknamed "scud" after the destructive Gulf war missile, came into Sunday's final with 55 service aces against Chang's 26. But he only managed seven aces

against Chang's eight in the match.

Philippoussis faced twelve service break points and at times appeared rattled by the range and placing of Chang's returns.

"He was really gearing to my serves and putting a lot of pressure on me," said Philippoussis.

The 18-year-old Melbourne native showed promise in breaking Chang's service in the third game of the first set, but was broken straight back.

Philippoussis, ranked 60 this week, used his powerful serve to survive three match points in game nine of the second set, notching back to back service aces and winning another point.

In the next game, Philippoussis briefly threatened to break Chang's service until the American smashed the winning shot.

The unseeded Philippoussis earned the right to play Chang with upsets of fifth seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden, 11th seed Brett Steven of New Zealand, and fourth seed Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands.



Michael Chang of the United States shows off the trophy after winning the singles final of the Seiko Super tennis tournament (Reuters photo)

World's best penholder says European grip better

NIMES, France (AFP) — South Korea's Kim Taek Soo, the world's best penholder, was in no doubt the European shakehand grip was now more effective in the world of table tennis.

Kim, who reached the quarter-finals of the men's singles world cup here, added: "If I could start my career again, I would use a shakehand grip."

The European grip, with fingers wrapped around the bat, evolved from the traditional Western tradition of shaking hands. Whereas the penholder style was more natural for Asians — they gripped the bat as though

they were using chopsticks or holding a pen.

Penholders won men's singles world titles from 1977 to 1987 — Japan's Mitsuru Kohno in 1977, Japan's Seiji Ono in 1979, China's Guo Yuehua in 1981 and 1983, and China's Jiang Jialiang in 1985 and 1987.

From 1989 to now, players with a Western grip have won the world title. The 1995 champion Kong Linghui turned a new page in Chinese table tennis history as he won with a European grip.

Three of the first five editions of the World Cup were won by penholders — Guo Yuehua in 1980 and 1982,

and Jiang Jialiang in 1984. But since then, only players with the European style have taken the World Cup title.

Kim a bronze medalist for South Korea in the 1995 world men's team event, said it was not just coincidence

penholders have dwindled since the late 80s.

Kim and China's world runner-up Liu Guoliang were the only penholders at the 16-strong, men's singles World Cup here this week.

"The penholder backhand

is much weaker than a Western grip backhand," said 25-year-old world number four Kim. "Before fast glue came on the scene, it was more difficult to exploit the weaker penholder backhand."

"But when fast glue came to be used by nearly all the top players, it became easier to exploit."

Kim believed it was a deliberate decision by Chinese coaches to train more Western grip players.

The Olympic bronze medalist in men's doubles, also admitted if he had his time over again, he would use a Western grip.

"I would start with a shakehand grip because it's easier. The backhand and the block is more difficult for a penholder. I don't have those problems because I worked very hard at those shots."

Jean-Philippe Gatien of France, the 1993 world champion, said Asian players, and China in particular, have always had players in their squad with European grips.

Gatien said: "There are just more of them now — it's a natural progression as they realise the benefits to their backhand."

Commonwealth and North American champion Johnny Huang of Canada agreed with Kim the faster game has sounded a death knell for penholders.

"In the past, penholders who were fast around the court could play forehands all the time. You cannot do that these days and everybody needs a good backhand," Huang said.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

THE CENTRAL BANK OF JORDAN

In accordance with article (28-B) of the Central Bank of Jordan law No. (23) of 1971, the Central Bank of Jordan will put in circulation, as from Oct. 16, 1995, a new coin of the denomination (1 Dinar) to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The new 1 Dinar coin is legal tender and will circulate alongside the bank notes and coins issued according to the Bylaw of Issuance of Jordanian Currency No. (28) year 1992.

Denomination: 1 Dinar
Alloy: 5.5% Nickel, 24.5% Zinc, 70% Copper
Diameter: 32 mm
Thickness: 2.1 mm
Weight: 12.4 gm
Shape: Heptagonal
Edge: Plain

The obverse of the new coin bears an effigy of His Majesty King Hussein encircled by the two phrases "Hussein Bin Talal", "The King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in Arabic.

The reverse incorporates:

- The logo of the FAO.
- The denomination (one Dinar) written in Arabic and English.
- The Hejira and Gregorian dates of issue.
- The phrase "The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in English.

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Wu loses chance to win 3rd marathon



Meng Xianhui

BEIJING (AFP) — China's Meng Xianhui stopped compatriot Hu Gangjun winning a third straight Beijing marathon on Sunday.

Meng, 21, won the men's race in 2hrs 16min and 20sec, and his coach said he could do even better.

Defending champion Hu clocked 2:16:29, nearly six minutes slower than his best time in 1994, the Xinhua News Agency said.

Hu has been plagued by a

foot injury all season.

Meng pulled away from Hu, Vladimir Kotov of Belarus and Nelson Ndepeva of Kenya in the last two kilometres. Kotov was third at 2:16:39 and Ndepeva fourth at 2:17:13.

Despite his victory Meng said he was not satisfied with the result. Meng's coach Zhang Fuxin said with reasonable practise, Meng could run a 2hr 10 min marathon in the next two or

three years — which would make him an Olympic and world title candidate.

Ren Xiujuan of China won the women's race in two hours 30 minutes, followed by another Chinese runner Zheng Guixia in 2:33:32 and Natalia Galushko of Belarus in 2:34:01.

China fielded a team of 10 male and 10 female runners in the field of 317 entrants from 17 countries.

Atletico stay on top

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Argentine Diego Pablo Simeone made a first-half goal Saturday to keep Atletico de Madrid unbeaten and on top of the standings with a 1-0 victory over Deportivo de la Coruna.

Simeone squeezed in his fourth goal of the season — all of them made on headers — in the last minute before the break at his home stadium.

The first-division's other unbeaten team also stayed that way, as Barcelona trampled Athletic de Bilbao 4-1. The victory kept Barcelona in second place with 20 points, two behind Atletico. No 3 Espanyol also won Saturday, sweeping over Sevilla 3-0 to stay one point behind Barcelona.

Barcelona owed half its goals to two of its young surprises, both up from the club's second-division team this season, who continued to outshine some of their elders.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANYA HIRSCH
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THE POWER OF TRUMPS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 10
♥ K 4 3
♦ K 7 5 4
♣ Q 9

WEST
♠ Q 5
♥ 8 7 3
♦ Q 8 6 2
♣ J 10 8

EAST
♠ 9 8 4 3 2
♥ 6
♦ J 5
♣ 7 5 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ K 7 6
♥ A Q J 10
♦ A 10 8
♣ A K 6

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1NT Pass 2♠ Pass
3NT Pass 4NT Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♣

Never underestimate the power of a trump suit. Even when two balanced hands are facing each other, the contract will often play better in a suit fit than in no trump. Consider this deal from a team match.

Once South opened two no trump, wild horses would not have been able to stop North short of slam. At one table, simple addition and balanced distribution convinced North to raise directly to the no-

trump slam. At the other, the ruffing value in clubs prompted North to probe for a heart fit, which led to a final contract of six hearts. The nine of hearts was laid at both tables.

Where the contract was played in no trump, declarer adopted a line that offered excellent chances for success. The opening lead was won with dummy's king and a diamond to the ten lost to the queen. After capturing West's heart return, declarer first tested for an even diamond split, without luck, then cashed the remaining heart winners followed by three rounds of clubs, discarding dummy's remaining diamond on the last.

With 10 tricks played, South learned that West had started with four cards in each red suit and at least three clubs, so the odds heavily favored East to hold the queen of spades. Going with the percentages, declarer crossed to the ace of spades and ran the jack. Down two.

Six hearts at the other table proved to be a breeze. After cashing a second heart to discover the break, declarer cashed three rounds of clubs, discarding a spade from dummy. The ace and king of spades were played and a spade ruff provided the 12th trick.

TODAY AT

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Leon

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PLAZA

Sandra Bullock
& Bill Pullman
in

While You
Were Sleeping

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA

TEL: 677420

CONCORD

CONCORD "1"
Adel Imam & Yusra
Birds of the Darkness
(Arabic)

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 10:45
CONCORD "2"
Arnold Schwarzenegger...in
Conan The Barbarian
Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 10:15

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Chiller calls for snap polls after losing vote

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller lost a parliamentary vote of confidence on Sunday, and immediately called for snap general elections.

"Democracy and the country now need a very early general election," Ms. Ciller told parliament minutes after the final results were announced. She mentioned no date for the polls.

Thousands of workers took to the streets of Ankara earlier on Sunday to demand a "no" vote, after Ms. Ciller rejected their latest wage demands.

Legislators earlier voted 230 to 190 to refuse confidence in Ms. Ciller's minority government which she set up on Oct. 5 after securing the conditional support of the small Party of the Democratic Left (DSP) which has 10 seats and the ultra-nationalist Nationalist Action Party (MHP) of Alaplan Turkes, which holds 17 seats.

The DSP of Bulent Ecevit earlier threatened to vote against Ms. Ciller's government unless she immediately resolved the massive strike by public workers.

General elections were last

held in Turkey in October 1991 and would normally be due in October next year. The earliest possible date would be mid-December, as a minimum of two months is needed for preparation.

Under the country's constitution, parliament must decide whether or not the date should be brought forward. President Suleyman Demirel can also decide to call fresh elections.

Ms. Ciller has come under attack for resisting early elections and taking a hardline with striking civil servants. She claimed an early election would harm her economic austerity programmes and set back prospects for a customs union with the European Union.

Instead, she formed the minority government last week to replace the coalition that collapsed in September in a dispute over the belt-tightening measures.

In her speech to parliament after the vote, Ms. Ciller said her party paid the price for not giving into pay demands by strikers.

"We did not put interests before the interests of the country... our head remains high, high enough to touch

the sky," she said.

Ms. Ciller's failure will prolong the political crisis and may give conservative parties a chance at gaining the upper hand.

A right-leaning government may make it difficult to pass democratisation laws or lift limits on freedom of expression as demanded by the European Parliament. The reforms are necessary for Turkey's proposed customs union with the European Union at the end of the year.

The alternative to Ms. Ciller's minority coalition may be a broad-based government, including the pro-Islamic Welfare Party, which is against stronger European ties. But no radical changes are immediately expected to Turkey's Western-oriented policies or its role in the NATO military alliance.

Ms. Ciller told parliament last week that she would appeal for elections on Dec. 15 if she failed to secure the confidence vote. Although her centre-right Truth Path Party is the largest in parliament with 177 seats, it will be difficult for Ms. Ciller to impose her date on the legislature.

Prince Hassan urges preachers to adopt moderation, advocate zakat

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met on Sunday with mosque preachers and imams and urged them to benefit from studies of ulamas and scholars who have been holding meetings in Amman, stressing that these studies constitute an important source that helps them in handling current issues.

Addressing the opening of a cultural seminar by imams working for the Jordanian Armed Forces, the Crown

Prince underlined the need for the preachers to offer spiritual guidance to the young generation in the Armed Forces.

Prince Hassan urged the preachers to adopt and practise a centrist or moderate approach with which one can handle issues of injustice, stressing that Islam rejects injustice and oppression and seeks justice for all.

Referring to new terms in social and political life including the term cultural norma-

lisation, Prince Hassan said that one had to draw the line and differentiate between normalisation in terms of cultural interaction and submission.

He said that Islam in the modern age should opt for openness and interaction with other cultures.

Crown Prince Hassan repeated a call for establishing a zakat (alms for the poor) fund serving the Islamic nation, whereby the wealthy extend offer help to the poor.

and called on preachers to help advocate this cause in Friday's sermons.

Prince Hassan also met with engineers working for the Jordanian Armed Forces, praising their contributions to the country's development and in training the young generation for achieving that goal. He also urged the officers to give due attention to the need for integration between natural and human resources for development.

Beirut plans controversial presidential term extension

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese government moves on Monday to extend the term of pro-Syrian President Elias Hrawi without holding elections in what has been called a "stab in the back" for Lebanese democracy.

Under a Syrian-backed scenario outlined by officials, the cabinet and parliament will petition Mr. Hrawi, whose six-year term ends on Nov. 24, to stay another three years by means of a constitutional amendment to be voted by parliament.

Mr. Hrawi, a 65-year-old Maronite Christian, lacks charisma and popularity but is seen as a good friend by Syrian leaders whose 35,000 troops in Lebanon make them the country's main power brokers.

Mr. Hrawi has held office since 1989. He was hurriedly co-opted in the closing year of the 1975-90 civil war after the car-bombing of his predecessor Rene Muawad within days of his election.

Some politicians, intellectuals, journalists and members of parliament — mostly Christians — have

opposed Mr. Hrawi's extension for months, but it is expected to win approval without difficulty when parliament votes the amendment on Thursday. Opponents say it will be the beginning of the end for Lebanese democracy, moving the country sharply towards the stereotypical Arab model of long-serving rulers co-opted by obedient parliaments to repeated terms of office.

A columnist in the conservative Beirut daily Al Nahar, which has campaigned vigorously against the extension, said it would adapt Lebanon to the regional environment and give it membership of "the club of Arab regimes."

"Let those in power applaud themselves because they will prove... that the Lebanese system now belongs to the biggest Arab crisis, the crisis of the legitimacy of the regime," the columnist, a Sunni Muslim, wrote.

Christians, many of whom resent Syria's control of Lebanon since the civil war, have been particularly outspoken, saying the country was in-

creasingly becoming a Syrian colony. They say there is no crisis or domestic Lebanese interest that justifies suspending the presidential election and that the authorities have offered no public justification for it.

Government officials admit privately that the decision has been Syria's and that Damascus prefers to retain Mr. Hrawi while it confronts threatened regional isolation and unfinished peace talks with Israel.

As Lebanon's constitution now stands, parliament must elect a new president before Mr. Hrawi's term expires next month. It bars the incumbent from reelection and makes no provision for extending his term.

Last week 128 intellectuals appealed to parliament against the extension, saying: "The choice is between holding elections that restore to the nation its right to free choice... or stabbing democracy in the back and treating the Lebanese as an immature nation under custodianship."



Elias Hrawi

However, effective opposition rapidly melted away after Syrian President Hafez Al Assad made clear last week that Syria backs the proposal.

Many politicians and members of parliament hurriedly queued to pay their respects to Mr. Hrawi at his palace and newspapers said around 100 of the 128 deputies would vote for the proposal.

The amendment will authorise a one-off three-year extension for Mr. Hrawi. Newspapers said he was insisting on being consulted by the cabinet and parliament on the text of their petitions to him to stay on, saying they must list his achievements and say why he should remain.

Talibans, Rabbani stymied in battle

KABUL (Agencies) — Rebel Taliban gunmen failed to breach the Afghan capital's defence Sunday, but a spokesman claimed the opposition force had captured at least 25 government troops.

For the fifth consecutive day, opposition fighters and government soldiers exchanged heavy artillery and rocket fire in the Rishkor hills at Kabul's southern city limits.

One rocket landed in the southern suburb of Karte Se, killing five people and wounding at least 15 others, a hospital official told the Associated Press.

The rocket landed outside the Afghan Red Crescent medical dispensary near a crowded market.

Both government and

opposition forces have been unable to make any headway in their offensives and counter offensives.

One government commander said his troops had been unable to make any progress against dug-in Taliban gunmen.

"The situation of southern Kabul has not changed although there were exchanges of heavy weapons fire," said government spokesman Amrullah, who like many Afghans uses only one name.

Amrullah, however, said government troops had moved forward against opposition positions on the western city of Kabul.

"We have taken the whole of the Sanglakh Valley," Amrullah said of the western district 20 kilometres from

Kabul. "We managed to capture the areas we were not in control of just this morning."

A Taliban spokesman in the northern Pakistani city of Peshawar claimed his troops had captured at least 25 government soldiers near Rishkor.

The claim could not be immediately confirmed. Former Islamic students, the Taliban are aiming to topple the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his military ally, Ahmad Shah Masoud.

However, according to reliable sources, the government forces suffered a setback Saturday when the Taliban recaptured the border region of Islam-Qala, which had reportedly fallen to the advancing troops several hours earlier.

Mubarak sends more Brotherhood members for trial by military court

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak ordered on Sunday a second trial of 27 members of the banned Muslim Brotherhood group before a military court, legal sources said.

The 27 were arrested over the past few weeks, chief among them Abdul menem Abdul Fattoh, former head of the medical union and one of the 150 Brothers running as a candidate in legislative elections set for Nov. 29.

The Muslim Brotherhood said the current head of the scientists union, Al Sayed Abdul Star Al Milligi, as well as a number of other union figures and parliament candidates, were also among those detained.

Police who arrested the 27 accused them of "seeking to finance the terrorist group Al Gamaa Islamiyah for attacks in Minya province" in south Egypt, the legal sources said.

The announcement comes on the heels of a first military trial of 49 Brotherhood members which caused a storm of condemnations from human rights group when it started on Sept. 16.

The 49 Brotherhood mem-

bers, who include union figures, former deputies and an official from the religious authority Al Azhar, have been charged with "directing an illegal organisation aiming to impede the rule of law and constitution."

Controversy has focused on Mr. Mubarak's decision to try them before a military tribunal, which usually considers cases connected to militant unrest, even though none of the 49 are accused of planning "terrorism" or "violence."

Banned in 1954, the Brotherhood has been tolerated since the mid-1970s when it said it foreswore violence in its bid to create Islamic rule in Egypt.

But the truce came to an end last year when Mr. Mubarak accused the group of being behind armed extremist groups seeking to overthrow his government. Dozens of arrests followed.

The Egyptian government came under attack from Sudan's top Islamic leader Hassan Al Tourabi for putting the Muslim fundamentalists on trial.

Dr. Tourabi, who wields considerable influence in Sudan although he holds no official post in the government, was quoted on state radio describing the trials as unjust. He said the trials "are only going to prompt tens of thousands of Egyptians to confront the regime and raise the flag of Islam."

"The charges against the Islamists are baseless as those on trial are trade unionists, scholars and leaders who have not gone on strike, taken part in demonstrations or moved against the government," Dr. Tourabi was quoted as saying.

The trials, Dr. Tourabi said, were arranged by the Egyptian government to prevent the Islamists from running and winning any vote in next month's parliamentary elections.

Suspects to be tried

An Egyptian military court will try in absentia the "mastermind" of the June assassination attempt on President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa, legal sources said on Sunday.

Paris carbomb 'unlinked' to earlier guerrilla blasts

PARIS (R) — French officials tried on Sunday to play down public concern that a crude car bomb blast in the northern outskirts of Paris was linked to recent attacks by suspected Algerian extremists.

But France's main police union, worried about a surge in domestic violence, urged President Jacques Chirac to scrap planned talks with Algerian President Liamine Zeroual to avoid the impression of siding with his military-backed government.

The burning stolen car, parked in suburban Le Blanc-Mesnil, blew up early on Saturday when the fire ignited a fully charged camping gas canister that had been placed on a seat.

Four police officers who had rushed to the scene after an anonymous telephone call were slightly hurt by the explosion.

Official sources said the inquiry into the blast would be led by local police rather than the anti-terrorist squad, which saw no direct links between the incident and seven bombs planted in France since July which have killed seven people and injured more than 140.

The owner of the car, Arthur Fonseca, said there had been no gas canister in the car when he last saw it. Many of the bombs in France have been packed in hollowed-out gas canisters loaded with explosives and nails and bolts to maximise damage.

Jean-Louis Arajol, head of the general police union, said criminals were forsaking low-level violence such as stone-throwing to imitate guerrilla methods. "Today terrorism acts dominate over every form of violence," he said.

"There was the intention of killing police officers. It's obvious... it was an ambush," he told France-Info radio. But it said later that a prosecutor had identified the person who made the call and that it did not seem to be a set-up.

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